

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
3 HOUSTON DIVISION

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA \* 4:13-CR-00628-1  
5 VS. \* 10:07 a.m.  
6 HORTENCIA MEDELES-GARCIA \* APRIL 15, 2015

7 TRIAL ON MERITS  
8 BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID HITNER  
9 AND A JURY  
10 Volume 3 of 10 Volumes

11 \*\*\*\*\*  
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17 94-15, United States District Court, Southern District of  
18 Texas.  
19 \*\*\*\*\*

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**VOLUME 3**  
**(Trial on Merits)**

April 15, 2015

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1 **PROCEEDINGS**

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Be seated. A little bit  
3 of business before we get underway.

4 Ellen, may I see you for a second, please.

10:06:56 5 (Discussion off the record.)

6 THE COURT: This is, like I say, deja vu looking  
7 at that defense table. I'm wondering whether to recognize  
8 Mr. Scardino. That was the team that represented  
9 Mr. Stanford in that case.

10:07:24 10 Will you be joining us? I guess you will with  
11 permission of the Court, of course.

12 MR. SCARDINO: With the Court's permission I  
13 would join for the morning session.

14 THE COURT: You've got to ask your partner.

10:07:35 15 MR. FAZEL: Absolutely.

16 MR. MAGLIOLO: No objection from the United  
17 States.

18 THE COURT: Yeah. All right. I don't know  
19 whether that's good or not, good or bad. We have two  
10:07:45 20 things from the jury, okay, two observations from the  
21 jury. Let me see the attorneys over here. Let me see the  
22 two interpreters, also, please. This does not have to be  
23 on the record.

24 (Discussion off the record.)

10:09:08 25 THE COURT: All right. Let's call the jury in.

1 Ellen, the microphone, as best we can, the lapel  
2 microphone.

3 CASE MANAGER: Yes, sir.

4 THE MARSHAL: All rise.

10:09:54

5 (Jury entered courtroom at 10:09 a.m.)

10:10:08

6 THE COURT: Thank you. Good morning. We have  
7 two sets of lapel microphones. There is one there and,  
8 also, the other one. Be seated. We had half sitting and  
9 half standing. I hope that doesn't -- you know the old  
10 story about the jury getting hung, right? You know, they  
11 want pizzas, one with tomatoes and one with sausage,  
12 50/50. So I had half of you standing and half of you  
13 sitting.

10:10:23

14 The only scheduling matter that we have and, of  
15 course, with the weekend approaching, at least we want to  
16 let you know we're going to adjourn between 3:45 and 4:00  
17 on Friday. Okay. A full day. We'll adjourn a little bit  
18 early on Friday, between 3:45 and 4:00. Okay.

10:10:42

19 Give us a moment. What we are doing now is you also  
20 mentioned you want a little more amplification with our  
21 interpreter. So we have a second lapel microphone. I  
22 don't know whether that's good or not, but it's the best  
23 we can do right now.

10:11:09

24 Ladies and gentlemen, we have one additional defense  
25 attorney, Mr. Fazel's partner, Mr. Scardino, Robert

1 Scardino.

2 MR. FAZEL: Thank you, Judge.

3 THE COURT: Well, I guess we are as ready as we  
4 can be. Call your next witness.

10:11:23 5 MR. PEREZ: The United States calls XXXXXXXXXXXX  
6 XXXXXXXX.

7 THE COURT: While she is coming in, how do you  
8 spell her first name?

9 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

10:11:33 10 THE COURT: XXXXXXXX --

11 MR. PEREZ: -- XXXXXXXX.

12 THE COURT: Last name?

13 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

10:11:45 15 MR. PEREZ: She has not been sworn, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Raise your right hand to be sworn,  
17 please.

18 THE WITNESS: (Complying.)

19 (Witness sworn by the case manager through the  
10:11:47 20 interpreter.)

21 THE COURT: All right. Go right ahead, please.

22 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,~~

23 having been first duly sworn, testified through the  
24 interpreter as follows:

25 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

1 BY MR. PEREZ:

2 Q. State your name for the Court and members of the jury,  
3 please, ma'am.

10:12:49

4 THE INTERPRETER: I am sorry, Your Honor. I'm  
5 doing it. I'm sorry. We are trying something new today.

6 A. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

7 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Are you originally from Mexico, ma'am?

8 A. Yes, I'm from Mexico.

10:13:06

9 THE COURT: Hold on up. Wait a second. How is  
10 this working? I'm a little confused.

11 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, sir. It will take a  
12 little time.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Good. All right. Let's go.

10:13:17

14 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Do you know a person by the name of  
15 Tencha?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is Tencha in the courtroom here today?

18 THE INTERPRETER: Linda.

19 MR. FAZEL: She is doing it.

10:13:30

20 THE INTERPRETER: I am doing the Spanish. We  
21 apologize. We decided to try this to see if it goes  
22 better.

23 THE COURT: Okay. So far it's not. But that's  
24 fine. No. No. Let's try it.

10:13:40

25 THE INTERPRETER: Please give us another chance.

1 THE COURT: Absolutely. Absolutely.

2 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

3 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) You can stand up and look around the  
4 courtroom.

10:13:47

5 THE INTERPRETER: She answered, "I don't see  
6 her."

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Can you please point and describe what  
9 she is wearing for the Court and the members of the jury?

10:14:06

10 **A.** She is wearing a black coat. Her hair has white hair  
11 and brown ends.

12 MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, may the record reflect  
13 this witness has identified the defendant?

14 THE COURT: The record will so reflect.

10:14:22

15 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) How old are you right now, ma'am?

16 **A.** Right now, 37 years.

17 **Q.** I'm going to direct your attention to when you were  
18 17. Okay. At that time, did you meet a man in Mexico?

19 **A.** Yes.

10:14:40

20 **Q.** And where did you meet that man?

21 **A.** In Puebla, Mexico.

22 **Q.** What was his name?

23 **A.** Armando Flores.

24 **Q.** At some point did you and Armando Flores become  
25 romantically involved?

10:14:54



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was he much older than you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And when you met him, who were you living with?

10:15:05 5 A. With two brothers.

6 Q. And where was your mom at that point?

7 A. In Veracruz, Mexico.

8 Q. Why were you living with your brothers instead of your  
9 mom?

10:15:23 10 A. We were 15 brothers and sisters. And so, my brothers  
11 took me with them to Puebla so that I could study there  
12 because my parents couldn't pay for schooling in Puebla.

13 THE COURT: She said there were 15 children in  
14 the family?

10:15:49 15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Needless to say, you were very poor?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. When you met this fellow Armando when you were 17, did  
10:16:01 20 he, for lack of a better word, romance you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And at that point, did you eventually move in with  
23 him?

24 A. Yes. I went to live with him.

10:16:16 25 Q. And at some point did he ask you to do something you

1 didn't want to do?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** What was it that he wanted you to do that you didn't  
4 want to do?

10:16:34 5 **A.** I had to work as a prostitute.

6 **Q.** Where did he put you to work as a prostitute? There  
7 in Mexico?

8 **A.** He took me to another place in Chiapas to a red zone  
9 area.

10:17:00 10 **Q.** And did you agree to be a prostitute at that time?

11 **A.** No.

12 **Q.** Why did you do it?

13 **A.** Because he would threaten us that he was going to hurt  
14 my family or my brothers or that he would take one of my  
15 sisters and put her into prostitution.

10:17:30

16 **Q.** And, eventually, you did engage in the prostitution  
17 business, right?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** At some point did he ask you or did he move you to the  
20 United States?

10:17:50

21 **A.** Yes, he brought me.

22 **Q.** How did he get you to the United States?

23 **A.** He sent me with his compadres and they were padrotes  
24 here and they had cantinas, bars.

10:18:19

25 **Q.** Here in Houston?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And was Armando himself a padrote or pimp?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. When you met him, did you know he was a pimp?

10:18:33 5 A. But after he had me working, well, yes. Yes, he was a  
6 pimp.

7 Q. Well, when you first met him, did you know he was a  
8 pimp?

9 A. No. No.

10:18:56 10 Q. Tell the Court and the members of the jury how it was  
11 you went from Chiapas to Houston, Texas.

12 A. They brought me over with other girls and with other  
13 pimps.

14 Q. Did Armando come with you?

10:19:14 15 A. No. He stayed with the daughter that I had.

16 Q. And was he the father of that daughter?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How long did you work in Mexico as a prostitute before  
19 coming to the United States?

10:19:36 20 A. About three years.

21 Q. Tell the members of the jury your life during those  
22 three years that you worked in Mexico as a prostitute.

23 A. When I worked as a prostitute in Mexico, if I didn't  
24 come up with the money that he would demand of me, he

10:20:06 25 would beat me. He would threaten me by saying that he

1 would harm my family. He set a quota of a thousand pesos  
2 daily. And if I didn't come up with the thousand pesos,  
3 he would beat me very ugly.

10:20:45

4 **Q.** I know it's hard, but describe to the members of the  
5 jury your beatings.

10:21:45

6 **A.** He would beat me with chains. He would make me drink  
7 urine. He would push my head into the toilet. He would  
8 have me naked holding my hands up. He would take me  
9 outside naked. He would take me to a window, and he would  
10 put me there in Puebla. And in Puebla it's very cold. He  
11 would take me and open the window and place me there where  
12 it was very cold. He wanted me to have relations with  
13 other women. And my punishment was that I wouldn't eat.

10:22:26

14 **Q.** I want to direct your attention to when you came to  
15 the United States. Okay?

16 **A.** Okay.

17 **Q.** Did you eventually wind up in Houston?

18 **A.** Yes.

10:22:45

19 **Q.** When you arrived in Houston, did you work at a  
20 brothel?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** What was the first brothel you worked at?

23 **A.** It was called Veracruz or Tampico Hermosa.

10:23:06

24 **Q.** Who controlled you when you worked at Veracruz or  
25 Tampico Hermosa?

1 **A.** There were three brothers, Taxis.

2 THE INTERPRETER: I said, "What?"

3 **A.** There were three brothers by the last name of Taxis.

4 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Taxis?

10:23:28

5 **A.** Yes, Taxis.

6 **Q.** And they were associates of Armando?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Describe that network to the members of the jury as  
9 far as the padrotes, please.

10:23:45

10 **A.** The padrotes were -- first of all, you had to pay for  
11 the passage of crossing over from Mexico and coming to the  
12 United States. Weekly, you would pay a rate in interest.  
13 You had to have sex so that you could make the money with  
14 the clients. They would take all your money away so they  
15 could send it to Armando. They would take you and bring  
16 you.

10:24:30

17 Several girls were living in an apartment. And it was  
18 every day from 4:00 until 2:00. From 4:00 in the  
19 afternoon until 2:00 in the early morning hours.

10:25:04

20 **Q.** Now, was Armando, the pimp from Mexico, with you here  
21 in Houston at that time?

22 **A.** No.

23 **Q.** Explain to the members of the jury how -- why you  
24 didn't escape from that situation.

10:25:21

25 **A.** They -- you couldn't escape because they would be the

1 ones to bring them to you. They would bring you food.  
2 They would bring you clothes, and they would make you  
3 fearful because they would tell you that immigration was  
4 everywhere.

10:25:55

5 And Armando had my daughter as a hostage, as well.  
6 That if I didn't send the money that he asked for, I  
7 couldn't see my daughter. I couldn't talk to my daughter.  
8 I couldn't know anything about my daughter.

9 **Q.** At some point did you work at Las Palmas?

10:26:22

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** I want to direct your attention from January of 2003  
12 to about October or November, 2003. Was that the time  
13 period when you worked at Las Palmas?

14 **A.** Yes.

10:26:36

15 **Q.** Explain to the members of the jury how you got your  
16 job as a prostitute there at Las Palmas.

17 **A.** A sister to one of the Taxis took me over there and I  
18 would go to work after hours and she had already had a --  
19 she had a contact already stating that I was going to be  
20 working there.

10:27:23

21 **Q.** Did you work there during the week or on weekends,  
22 ma'am?

23 **A.** I worked weekends.

24 **Q.** From what time to what time?

10:27:35

25 **A.** From 2:00 in the morning until 5:00 in the morning.

1 Q. And you said you worked, I think you said, from 4:00  
2 to 2:00. Where did you work during that time period?

3 A. At the Veracruz or at Tampico Hermosa.

10:28:07

4 Q. After you finished your tour, your working hours there  
5 at Veracruz then you would go to Las Palmas?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Explain to the members of the jury how it was --  
8 strike that.

9 Did you meet Tencha at Las Palmas?

10:28:38

10 A. (Speaking Spanish.)

11 MR. FAZEL: Your Honor, I'm sorry.

12 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

13 MR. FAZEL: I'm sorry. Mr. Perez, I know. I  
14 would object to nonresponsive of the witness.

10:28:46

15 THE COURT: All right. Go question and answer.

16 MR. PEREZ: Okay.

17 Q. (By Mr. Perez) You met Tencha at Las Palmas; is that  
18 right?

19 A. Yes.

10:28:58

20 Q. Did -- what -- was she the owner of Las Palmas?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was she the one that gave orders at Las Palmas?

23 A. Sometimes she would give orders.

10:29:13

24 Q. Tell the members of the jury when you say sometimes  
25 she would give orders, describe those orders, please.

1 **A.** She would give orders that if we saw or heard of a  
2 police officer undercover inside the bar, cantina, we  
3 couldn't work.

10:29:41

4 **Q.** Did she also tell you or did you also know about a  
5 purple light there at Las Palmas?

6 **A.** Yes. She also told us that if the light was on that  
7 was a signal that we couldn't work.

8 **Q.** Were the people inside the bar, did they work for --  
9 the employees at Las Palmas, did they work for Tencha?

10:30:09

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** And I think before you were interrupted you said  
12 something about she would be in the parking lot? I think  
13 I overheard you say that.

14 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

10:30:23

15 **Q.** What would she --

16 **A.** Yes. She would be in the parking lot.

17 **Q.** What would she do in the parking lot?

18 **A.** She would be watching, according to her, so that the  
19 police wouldn't see us.

10:30:41

20 **Q.** And the money that you made at Las Palmas, were you  
21 charged for working there at Las Palmas?

22 **A.** Yes. They charged us. If we got there late, we had  
23 to pay.

24 **Q.** What would you have to pay, ma'am?

10:31:04

25 **A.** We would pay \$25 because we had been late.



1 Q. Did you ever hear Tencha talking with other females  
2 with signs of being beaten?

3 A. I heard her talk. I heard her talk.

10:31:31

4 Q. Okay. Tell the members of the jury what she said  
5 about their pimps beating them?

6 A. She would say that if we had been beaten it would be  
7 because we weren't paying attention to the padrotes or we  
8 wouldn't be listening to him. She would mock us.

9 Q. Would she also laugh at you?

10:32:11

10 A. She didn't beat me, but my -- because my pimp wasn't  
11 there. But the other girls' pimps, yes.

12 Q. Would she laugh at the other girls because their pimps  
13 had beaten them?

10:32:44

14 A. Yes. She would say that we were dumb because we  
15 weren't paying attention to the padrotes, and it caused  
16 her laughter.

17 Q. Did you ever hear Tencha and a lady named Mau talking  
18 about the cost of smuggling her two male relatives?

10:33:05

19 MR. FAZEL: I'm sorry, Judge. I'm going to  
20 object to the question. It's not very clear. It's  
21 duplicitous. Will you rephrase it?

22 THE COURT: It's not clear. If you would, just  
23 restate it.

24 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

10:33:14

25 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Did you ever hear Tencha and a lady

1 named Mau talking?

2 **A.** Yes, I heard them talk.

3 **Q.** Tell the members of the jury what you heard them  
4 talking about.

10:33:29

5 **A.** They were talking about a tanda that they had had with  
6 some nephews that had been brought over. She would hold  
7 tandas and she had some money that had been made and she  
8 didn't want to give it to them.

9 **Q.** Who is "she" now?

10:34:04

10 **A.** Mau.

11 **Q.** Okay. I'm not very clear on that. Okay. Mau told  
12 Tencha what about her relatives?

13 **A.** Tencha would talk with her about the money that she  
14 owed him from the tandas and that she -- and she didn't  
15 want to give it to them.

10:34:33

16 **Q.** Let's talk about the nephews and what she paid to get  
17 them over to the U.S. Okay. First --

18 MR. FAZEL: I'm sorry, Your Honor. There are so  
19 many prepositions. She? Who? What? I would object to  
20 the form of the question.

10:34:46

21 THE COURT: Sustained. Let's move it along,  
22 please.

23 MR. PEREZ: I will, Your Honor.

24 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Tencha told Mau about her two

10:34:55

25 relatives that she had -- that she, Tencha, had brought

1 into the United States; is that right?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** Tell the members of the jury what the conversation was  
4 about.

10:35:09

5 **A.** It had to do with Tencha telling Mau that she wasn't  
6 going to give them their money because they work for her,  
7 for Tencha.

8 **Q.** And who had these relatives brought from Mexico to the  
9 United States?

10:35:43

10 **A.** I don't know if it was her, but they were arguing  
11 about that money.

12 **Q.** What money?

13 **A.** The tanda that she made.

14 **Q.** Tell the members of the jury what a tanda is.

10:35:58

15 **A.** The tanda is when ten people get together and every  
16 week they get together and pass out the numbers. And  
17 depending on the number, each number that you are given,  
18 that's how they hand out your tanda to you.

19 MR. PEREZ: May I approach the witness, Your  
20 Honor?

10:36:33

21 THE COURT: Yes.

22 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) P-1 on the board, please. Can you  
23 tell the members of the jury what is depicted on P-1,  
24 please, ma'am, that's depicted on the board?

10:36:57

25 **A.** That's the parking lot of the place, the Las Palmas

1 cantina.

2 **Q.** How about P-15? Who is depicted on P-15, please,  
3 ma'am?

4 **A.** That's the woman who charged us for the rooms in the  
5 upstairs part.

10:37:31

6 **Q.** How about P-18? Who is depicted on P-18, ma'am,  
7 please?

8 **A.** She was a girl who worked at the bar, as well.

9 **Q.** Did you know her name?

10:37:50

10 **A.** XXXXXXXX was her name, XXXXXXXX.

11 **Q.** She worked there as a prostitute, as well?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** P-19, can you identify whoever is on P-19, please?

14 **A.** She used to work at the bar, also. Her name was  
15 XXXXXXXX.

10:38:14

16 MR. FAZEL: Mr. Perez, I'm sorry.

17 THE COURT: Hold on.

18 MR. FAZEL: These are not into evidence. I would  
19 ask -- they are not. They came up. I didn't object. In  
20 the future, if you would tell me ahead of time I would  
21 appreciate it so I could object or not object.

10:38:24

22 MR. PEREZ: I thought they were, Your Honor. We  
23 went through this already.

24 MR. FAZEL: We did not. Thank you.

10:38:36

25 THE COURT: Keep going.

1 Q. (By Mr. Perez) P-19, you knew her as a stage name of  
2 what?

3 A. XXXXXX, by XXXXXX.

4 Q. P-20?

10:38:49

5 MR. FAZEL: Don't put it up yet. Sorry.

6 MR. PEREZ: May I have a conversation with him,  
7 Your Honor?

8 THE COURT: Yes, please.

9 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

10:39:54

10 MR. FAZEL: I have no objections to this photo,  
11 Your Honor. Thank you.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Who is depicted on P-20?

14 A. That's Tencha.

10:40:07

15 Q. Can you identify the person depicted -- and that's not  
16 being placed up there yet -- on P-66?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Who is on P-66?

19 A. She used to work at the bar, also; and she is

10:40:29

20 XXXXXXXXXX.

21 MR. FAZEL: No objection.

22 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Can you please put up P-66?

23 A. XXXXXXXXXX.

24 Q. Can you identify who is on P-67?

10:40:40

25 MR. FAZEL: No objections to that, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: You don't have to say it. Just let  
2 it move.

3 MR. FAZEL: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: All right. Go on.

10:40:47

5 **A.** She also worked at the bar, and she was the person  
6 that I had been sent from Mexico with to over here.

7 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) What was her name?

8 **A.** XXXX.

9 **Q.** Did she have a pimp?

10:41:11

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** Do you know his name?

12 **A.** They called him El PePes.

13 **Q.** Was he also associated with your pimp?

14 **A.** Yes.

10:41:27

15 **Q.** Who is depicted on P-68?

16 **A.** Her name was XXXXXXXX, and she also used to work at the  
17 cantina.

18 **Q.** That was at Las Palmas?

19 **A.** At Las Palmas and at the Veracruz, as well.

10:41:50

20 **Q.** Now, I forgot to ask you whether the person in P-67  
21 also worked at Las Palmas?

22 **A.** Also.

23 MR. MAGLIOLO: May we have a moment, Your Honor?

24 THE COURT: Absolutely.

10:43:09

25 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

1 Q. (By Mr. Perez) You mentioned that -- and I just want  
2 to be clear that you saw her talking to pimps in the  
3 parking lot. When you say "she," did you mean Tencha?

4 A. Yes.

10:43:22 5 Q. And how old were you when you worked at Las Palmas?

6 A. 23.

7 Q. And when you say there was a conference you had when  
8 you went to go work there, who was that conference with?

9 A. A woman by the name of XXXXXX took me there, and her  
10:43:57 10 pimp was Alfonso Taxis.

11 Q. And were all the girls in the pictures you identified  
12 previously, were they all here in the country illegally?

13 A. Yes, all.

14 Q. Now, you mentioned that some girl -- the girl went to  
10:44:31 15 Las Palmas to get you permission to work there. Do you  
16 know who she -- who that person talked to?

17 A. With Tencha.

18 Q. And after she had her conversation with Tencha, then  
19 you could work there; is that right?

10:44:48 20 A. Yes.

21 MR. MAGLIOLO: When you say "work," what do you  
22 mean?

23 Q. (By Mr. Perez) When you say "work," you worked there  
24 as a prostitute; is that correct?

10:44:57 25 A. Yes, as a prostitute.

1 MR. PEREZ: Pass the witness, Your Honor.

2 MR. FAZEL: May I proceed, Your Honor?

3 THE COURT: Yes. Go right ahead.

4 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

10:45:02

5 BY MR. FAZEL:

6 Q. Good morning, ma'am. My name is Ali Fazel. Excuse  
7 me. You and I have never spoken before or met before,  
8 have we?

9 A. No.

10:45:15

10 Q. Okay. And I'm going to ask you some questions. If  
11 you don't understand or if I'm going too fast, would you  
12 do me the favor of letting me know; and I'll slow down and  
13 repeat myself. Is that okay?

14 A. That's fine.

10:45:33

15 Q. Now, before you testified today, did you meet with the  
16 gentleman sitting at that table in front of me?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And during your meetings you discussed what you were  
19 going to tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury today,  
20 correct?

10:45:52

21 A. We only spoke about what the truth is only.

22 Q. Yes, ma'am. And again, if my questions are confusing,  
23 I apologize. Let me know, and I'll rephrase it. But if  
24 you would just answer my questions, it would go by a lot  
25 quicker. Fair?

10:46:13



1 **A.** Yes.

2 **Q.** You did have a meeting with the prosecutors before the  
3 testimony today, correct?

4 **A.** Yes.

10:46:22

5 **Q.** Where you did discuss your testimony before this jury  
6 today, correct?

7 **A.** About the case, yes.

8 **Q.** And during that discussion and that interaction they  
9 showed you the same photographs that we are showing you

10:46:38

10 today in front of this jury, correct?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** And one of the photographs they showed you was of  
13 Ms. Medeles that you called Tencha, correct?

14 **A.** Yes.

10:46:48

15 **Q.** And so when you are identifying Ms. Medeles today in  
16 court, you also had the opportunity to look at her picture  
17 before you testified today, correct?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** Okay. Now, let me -- let me back you up a little bit  
20 and talk about the unfortunate events that happened in

10:47:04

21 Mexico with you. Okay?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Okay. You indicated that when you crossed into the  
24 United States you were 23, correct?

10:47:21

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. 23 or maybe 24, would that be correct?

2 A. (Speaking Spanish.)

3 Q. Okay. So you were about 24 years old?

4 A. I was going to be 23 because when I came over I was  
5 going to have a birthday in January.

10:47:40

6 Q. Okay. I'm sorry. I speak a little Spanish. So I  
7 jumped the gun. I apologize. I'm very sorry. I'll try  
8 not to do that.

9 So you were going to be 23 years old?

10:47:53

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Now, I want to talk to you about Armando.

12 Okay. You met him in Mexico, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. He has no connection or does not have any relatives or  
15 in any way related to Ms. Medeles here today, correct?

10:48:12

16 A. No.

17 Q. No as in I'm correct? Correct? They are not related,  
18 correct?

19 A. No, not he.

10:48:31

20 Q. Okay. And Armando was the one that you met with and  
21 that romanced you in Mexico, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And Armando is the one that then forced you through  
24 whatever means he used into doing something you didn't

10:48:46

25 want to do, correct?

1 **A.** Yes.

2 **Q.** And Armando did all of that in Mexico, correct?

3 **A.** Yes.

4 **Q.** At no time in Mexico when Armando was doing all the  
5 things you described to the jury -- and I won't repeat it  
6 and go through it -- was Ms. Medeles with you, correct?

7 **A.** No.

8 **Q.** At no time, when you earned all the moneys that you  
9 earned doing the things that Armando made you do, did that  
10 money ever go to Ms. Medeles, correct?

11 **A.** No.

12 **Q.** All right. Now --

13 MR. FAZEL: Is that mine?

14 MS. STOELKER: Yes.

15 MR. FAZEL: Perfect. Thank you.

16 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) When it was determined that you were  
17 going to come to the United States, are you with me, the  
18 time that they moved you to the United States, you were  
19 transported to the United States with the use of what's  
20 commonly called coyotes, correct?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** Now, these are folks that transport people from Mexico  
23 into the United States, correct?

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** Okay. And that money was paid by Armando, correct?

1 A. It was paid by me.

2 Q. Fair enough. But it was fronted by Armando, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then you had to pay him back?

10:50:14 5 A. With my body.

6 Q. I understand. You are absolutely right. And when you  
7 were transported to the United States you were transported  
8 by the coyotes and other people that Armando had set up,  
9 correct?

10:50:32 10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Ms. Medeles had nothing to do with that, correct?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Now, do you remember about what time you arrived here,  
14 what year was it you arrived in the United States?

10:51:06 15 A. In 2003, in January, January of 2003.

16 Q. And at that time you were taken to an apartment in  
17 Houston, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then you were forced or put into work by Armando  
10:51:24 20 into different -- at a club or a cantina?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the first one was El Capricho. Am I saying that  
23 right?

24 A. No, El Veracruz.

10:51:42 25 Q. Did you also work at El Capricho?

1 **A.** Yes.

2 **Q.** And at El Veracruz and El Capricho, Ms. Medeles had  
3 nothing to do with that, correct?

4 **A.** I didn't know.

10:51:57 5 **Q.** Did you ever see Ms. Medeles there at either one?

6 **A.** I didn't see her on that occasion.

7 **Q.** Did you ever see Ms. Medeles at either one of those  
8 two locations?

9 **A.** I don't remember.

10:52:15 10 **Q.** Okay. And who arranged for you to work at those  
11 locations?

12 **A.** The Taxis Brothers.

13 **Q.** One of them being Armando?

14 **A.** No.

10:52:30 15 **Q.** One of Armando's associates?

16 **A.** Yes.

17 **Q.** Now, in around November of 2003 you actually escaped  
18 the clutches of Armando, correct?

19 **A.** Yes. I went to Mexico.

10:53:02 20 **Q.** And you went to Mexico; but right before you went to  
21 Mexico from Houston, you called Armando, right?

22 **A.** I don't understand. What?

23 **Q.** Is it not true that before you went to Mexico you made  
24 a phone call to Armando saying I'm coming to Mexico?

10:53:28 25 **A.** I had to speak with him because in between was my

1 daughter.

2 **Q.** I completely understand that. My question was:

3 Before you went back to Mexico, after you escaped Armando,

4 you called him and said, "Hey, I'm coming back to Mexico

10:53:46

5 for my daughter," for whatever reason, correct?

6 **A.** I had to call him.

7 **Q.** And then you went back to Mexico and stayed in Mexico

8 for about how long?

9 **A.** About five months.

10:54:09

10 **Q.** And then you came back to the United States again,

11 correct?

12 **A.** Armando sent me back again.

13 **Q.** I understand. But my question was: You did return

14 back into the United States, correct?

10:54:22

15 **A.** Yes, I returned.

16 **Q.** And Armando helped you return back into the United

17 States?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** And you used a coyote again to come back into the

10:54:37

20 United States?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** And when you came back into the United States, did you

23 work at a place called El Tivolin? Am I saying that

24 right? I'm sorry.

10:54:57

25 **A.** Tivolin.

1 Q. And you worked there, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Now, the second time you came back to the United  
4 States, did Armando come with you?

10:55:16

5 A. No.

6 Q. And when you came back into the United States the  
7 second time, did you stay in an apartment again?

8 A. Yes.

10:55:29

9 Q. Let's be clear. The first time you were in the United  
10 States, you did not work at Las Palmas, right?

11 A. Yes, I worked at Las Palmas.

12 Q. You did. Okay. The second time you came into the  
13 United States, did you work at Las Palmas?

14 A. Yes, I worked at Las Palmas.

10:55:51

15 Q. Okay. Did you -- at some point in time did you run  
16 away and start living by yourself in Houston?

17 A. I was pregnant. I couldn't work very much.

18 Q. I understand that. But my question was: At some  
19 point in time you actually ran away again and were able to  
20 live by yourself, correct?

10:56:33

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you decided to work as a waitress at one of these  
23 cantinas, correct?

24 A. I don't understand "camarera" in a cantina.

10:56:51

25 Q. Did you decide to find a job as a waitress at La

1 Pantera?

2 **A.** Oh, yes.

3 **Q.** At that point in time, when you did that, you didn't  
4 have Armando over your shoulder? He wasn't there. I  
10:57:08 5 understand he had your baby. But he wasn't over you in  
6 Houston, correct?

7 **A.** No.

8 **Q.** And you had a cell phone, correct?

9 **A.** Yes.

10:57:41 10 **Q.** Now, let me ask you some other questions. Do you need  
11 some water? Are you okay up there?

12 **A.** Si'.

13 **Q.** Okay. It's a little hot in here. I want to -- I want  
14 to understand clearly what it is -- how this system works.

10:58:08 15 Forgive me. I'm not very familiar with it.

16 All the money you earned didn't go to Ms. Medeles,  
17 correct?

18 **A.** Not all of it.

19 **Q.** Right. 99 percent of it went to Armando and his  
10:58:26 20 people?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** The rules that the prosecutor talked to you about that  
23 you said that were engaged in at Las Palmas, those rules  
24 related to the moneys that Las Palmas was to earn,

10:58:44 25 correct?



1 **A.** I don't know. It was what they charged me. I don't  
2 know if that was what I was supposed to earn.

3 **Q.** Okay. Let me ask -- bad question. Let me rephrase  
4 it.

10:59:03

5 The rules -- do you remember the prosecutor talking to  
6 you about the rules that Ms. Medeles told you about?

7 Okay. Do you remember that?

8 **THE COURT:** Let's move.

9 **MR. FAZEL:** Yes, Your Honor. I'm trying to.

10:59:16

10 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) Do you remember that?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** Those rules relate to the moneys that you had to pay  
13 Las Palmas; and that's it, correct?

14 **A.** The rules were that we couldn't work when the police  
15 arrived.

10:59:31

16 **Q.** I'll get to that in a minute; but if you would just  
17 answer my question, we can get this quickly. I promise.  
18 The rules that the prosecutor was talking about as far as  
19 the money is concerned -- let me rephrase the question --  
20 the money was concerned was -- the rules regarding money  
21 was simply the \$25 that you had to pay the house, correct?

10:59:42

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** The rules relating to what you just mentioned to the  
24 jury, the light and when the police were there, it was so  
25 that you wouldn't get arrested and nobody else would get

10:59:57

1 arrested, correct?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** Because you were engaging in prostitution, correct?

4 **A.** Yes.

11:00:07

5 **Q.** And you didn't want the police to come get you because  
6 that's illegal, correct?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** So the rules regarding the rules that you were talking  
9 about are simply, hey, when the police show up, don't do

11:00:23

10 prostitution?

11 **A.** That's one of the rules.

12 **Q.** But to be clear, it's the pimp Armando that told you  
13 where to go, whether Las Palmas or the other locations,  
14 correct?

11:00:38

15 **A.** The Hermanos Taxis.

16 **Q.** Whoever had control over you are the ones that told  
17 you where to go, correct?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** When you started working at Las Palmas, you said that  
20 somebody came in and asked for you to have a job there,  
21 correct?

11:01:04

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Were you inside Las Palmas watching it, or were you  
24 outside?

11:01:21

25 **A.** I was standing there at the door waiting for them to

1 say she passes or she does not pass.

2 **Q.** And was this the first time you were at Las Palmas or  
3 the second time you came into the country and started  
4 working at Las Palmas?

11:01:40

5 **A.** The first time.

6 **Q.** And the person who did that was another female that  
7 was also engaging in that same activity?

8 **A.** Yes.

11:02:18

9 **Q.** One last question or last set of questions. You  
10 indicated towards the end of your testimony to the jury  
11 that there was a conversation between Ms. Medeles and some  
12 folks about how she took the position that you should  
13 follow the pimps' instructions. Do you remember that?

14 **A.** Can you repeat the question again?

11:02:38

15 **Q.** Sure. It was kind of long. Do you remember talking  
16 about how you recalled Ms. Medeles talking about, oh, you  
17 should follow the instructions of the pimps? Do you  
18 remember that?

19 **A.** Yes.

11:02:59

20 MR. FAZEL: I think they are having a little  
21 microphone problem, Judge.

22 THE COURT: Pardon me?

23 MR. FAZEL: They are having a microphone problem.

24 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you.

11:03:20

25 MR. FAZEL: Are we okay? Are we ready?

1 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

2 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) Do you remember how we talked about  
3 how you met with the prosecution before you testified  
4 today? Do you remember that?

11:03:32

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that wasn't the first time. You had met with the  
7 prosecution before, correct?

8 A. Yes.

11:03:47

9 Q. You met with them before at least on, what, two or  
10 three occasions?

11 A. Only two times.

12 Q. And in the two times that you met with them, do you  
13 remember somebody taking notes about what you were saying?

14 A. Perhaps, yes, somebody was writing. Then, yes.

11:04:31

15 Q. And the person that was taking notes, would he be the  
16 gentleman right there with the glasses, a blue shirt, with  
17 short hair?

18 A. Yes.

11:04:51

19 Q. Okay. And did you mention the conversation about  
20 Ms. Medeles talking about how you should follow the pimps'  
21 instructions to them?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you think that's important?

24 A. Of course it's important.

11:05:16

25 Q. Did you see him take those notes?

1 **A.** Yes.

2 MR. FAZEL: Is this hers?

3 MS. STOELKER: Yes.

4 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) Would it surprise you that he didn't  
5 mention it in his report?

11:05:30

6 MR. PEREZ: Objection, Your Honor. It's clearly  
7 improper, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Why?

9 MR. PEREZ: It's improper, Your Honor, because

11:05:38

10 it's -- I'm sorry, Your Honor. It's improper because --

11 MR. MAGLIOLO: I can answer that, Your Honor.

12 It's because he is trying to cross-examine her on a

13 statement that's not hers under the law. It's only a

14 statement if she makes it or if she attests to it.

11:05:53

15 Somebody's notes are not her statement. You cannot

16 cross-examine on that.

17 THE COURT: We discussed this yesterday, didn't  
18 we?

19 MR. MAGLIOLO: We did, Your Honor. That's the

11:06:00

20 law. I can't help it.

21 THE COURT: Overruled.

22 MR. FAZEL: May I proceed?

23 THE COURT: Don't show it. Don't show it. Ask

24 her if it would be a surprise to her if it wasn't in there

11:06:10

25 and why. Just the same line of questioning you did

1 yesterday.

2 MR. FAZEL: Yes, sir.

3 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) Now, also, other than that that we  
4 just discussed, there is -- you have -- you are here in  
5 the country, correct?

11:06:23

6 A. I'm sorry, sir?

7 Q. You live in the United States, correct?

8 THE COURT: Now?

9 MR. FAZEL: Now, yes.

11:06:30

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) And you live under the auspices or the  
12 assistance of the government because they got you a  
13 T-visa, correct?

14 A. Yes.

11:06:40

15 Q. And you are currently employed, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. As part of that T-visa that they obtained for you, you  
18 told your story to the folks in immigration, correct?

19 A. Yes.

11:06:55

20 Q. And when you told your story, you did it through an  
21 affidavit, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that affidavit was read to you in Spanish before  
24 you signed it, correct?

11:07:08

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is there a reason you didn't mention this about  
2 Ms. Medeles talking to you about pimps in your affidavit?

3 A. I don't understand the question.

4 Q. Sure.

11:07:29

5 THE COURT: Why -- just ask why it's not in  
6 there.

7 MR. FAZEL: Yes, sir.

8 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) Why wouldn't you --

9 THE COURT: Why isn't it in there?

11:07:36

10 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) This affidavit that they have that you  
11 outlined clearly, eight pages long, doesn't say anything  
12 about Ms. Medeles talking to the pimps, does it?

13 A. I don't know.

14 MR. FAZEL: Approach briefly?

11:07:51

15 THE COURT: Go on.

16 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

17 MR. FAZEL: Okay. You tell the Judge that.

18 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) Ma'am, I'm going to point to the  
19 eighth page of this document to you. Do you see your  
20 signature on there?

11:08:30

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. This document is in Spanish, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you read Spanish, correct?

11:08:39

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Nowhere in that -- excuse me. Pardon me. Nowhere in  
2 that document -- and you can look at it -- does it say  
3 anything about Ms. Medeles speaking to pimps or laughing  
4 at folks that worked at Las Palmas or saying that you  
5 should follow your pimps' instructions, does it?  
11:09:01

6 A. Well, it doesn't say so here; but that's what  
7 happened.

8 MR. FAZEL: I pass the witness, Your Honor.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. PEREZ: May I approach the witness, Your  
11 Honor?

12 THE COURT: You don't have to ask permission in  
13 my court to approach the witness. You have got free range  
14 in the courtroom.

15 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Your Honor.  
11:09:29

16 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

17 BY MR. PEREZ:

18 Q. This statement that he just handed you is in Spanish,  
19 right?

20 A. Yes.  
11:09:36

21 Q. Now, when you signed this, did -- was this in  
22 reference to some application for some visas; is that  
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was Deputy Chapuseaux with you at the time?  
11:09:52



1 **A.** Yes.

2 **Q.** He was with you when this was given?

3 **A.** No. The attorney.

4 THE COURT: Hold it. Let me hear the answer.

11:10:08

5 **A.** No. No. The attorney. The attorney.

6 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Okay. And what is the attorney's  
7 name?

8 **A.** Andrea Rodriguez.

11:10:24

9 **Q.** Okay. Now, at the time that that affidavit was  
10 executed, I had nothing to do with that affidavit, right?

11 **A.** Again?

12 **Q.** At the time that that affidavit, that statement, was  
13 given by you, I had nothing to do with it, right?

14 **A.** No. No.

11:10:33

15 **Q.** Mr. Magliolo had nothing to do with it?

16 **A.** No.

17 **Q.** Nobody at this table had anything to do with it,  
18 right?

19 **A.** No.

11:10:40

20 THE COURT: Is that correct? You are saying, no,  
21 no, no, three times. Okay. People tend to say "no" when  
22 they really mean "correct." Ask her if she means correct  
23 for those three questions. Otherwise, the record is going  
24 to be just the opposite.

11:10:56

25 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 Q. (By Mr. Perez) The bottom line is this: We had  
2 nothing to do with the execution of that affidavit, right?

3 THE COURT: Is that correct?

4 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Is that correct?

11:11:05 5 THE COURT: Yes or no?

6 A. No. Only the attorney.

7 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Okay. So the attorney is the one and  
8 that had nothing to do with us and is the one that did  
9 this for you?

11:11:15 10 THE COURT: Wait. Mr. Perez, state it again and  
11 say "is that correct."

12 MR. PEREZ: Okay, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right. Because it's still -- I  
14 have got to know. If you want it in the record that way,  
11:11:24 15 that's your record.

16 MR. PEREZ: I understand, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: We all understand where it is but  
18 people have a tendency to do that and I guess it's more  
19 difficult even in translation.

11:11:34 20 MR. PEREZ: I understand, Your Honor. Thank you,  
21 Your Honor.

22 Q. (By Mr. Perez) The bottom line is this, ma'am: We  
23 had nothing to do with that affidavit; is that correct?

24 A. No. I wrote it.

11:11:51 25 Q. Okay. Or, actually, the attorney wrote it for you,

1 right?

2 **A.** Yes. I wrote it, and the attorney translated it.

3 **Q.** In that affidavit the focus of that affidavit is what  
4 had happened to you; is that correct?

11:12:26

5 **A.** Yes.

6 **Q.** Not what Tencha had done; is that correct?

7 **A.** No.

8 MR. PEREZ: I'll pass the witness, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Anything further?

11:12:36

10 MR. FAZEL: Very, very briefly, Your Honor.

11 **RECROSS-EXAMINATION**

12 BY MR. FAZEL:

13 **Q.** Ma'am, you got to the attorney that wrote that  
14 affidavit -- well, you wrote the affidavit. But you got  
15 the attorney through the application for the T-visa,  
16 correct?

11:12:44

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** And the way you got the application through the T-visa  
19 is that you started cooperating with the FBI, correct?

11:13:00

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** And they are the ones that introduced you to the  
22 agency who helped with you the T-visa, correct?

23 **A.** The attorney.

24 **Q.** They introduced you to the attorney?

11:13:18

25 **A.** I don't know if they were so directly, but I met the

1 attorney.

2 **Q.** Through the agencies that the FBI set you up with?

3 **A.** Yes.

4 MR. FAZEL: Pass the witness.

11:13:31

5 MR. PEREZ: I have no further questions, Your  
6 Honor.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. You can please step down.

8 You are excused and free to leave. Let me ask you this:

9 The interpreter -- have you got another one who needs

11:13:40

10 interpretation?

11 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen,

13 ordinarily we take a break every hour and 30 minutes. I

14 think maybe between this it will give the interpreters a

11:13:49

15 break, also the court reporter. I'm saying it may be

16 intense because we're dealing with translations and so

17 forth. Ordinarily we take a break every hour and a half.

18 It's been an hour and a quarter. Let's do that now. It's

19 11:15. We'll get back at 11:30. We will take a 15-minute

11:14:10

20 break.

21 (Jury exited courtroom at 11:14 a.m.)

22 MR. PEREZ: May we --

23 THE COURT: Yes. Okay. We're going to stay on

24 the record. Okay.

11:14:45

25 MR. PEREZ: May I be heard, Your Honor?

1 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

2 MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, we provided Mr. Ali with  
3 30,000-plus pages of discovery, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: 30,000?

11:14:52

5 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor. All we are asking  
6 for is for him before he approaches the witness with his  
7 translated version of some affidavit for him to let us see  
8 it before he does that, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: No problem with that?

11:15:03

10 MR. FAZEL: No, Your Honor. I just got that this  
11 morning. As you know, the Court signed the order the  
12 other day. I told him that if they produced the documents  
13 they produced to me --

14 THE COURT: Just show it to him as you walk up.  
15 That's all.

11:15:15

16 MR. FAZEL: All right.

17 (Recess from 11:15 a.m. to 11:34 a.m.)

18 THE COURT: Let's call the jury in, please.

19 (Jury entered courtroom at 11:34 a.m.)

11:34:49

20 THE COURT: Thank you. Be seated. Call your  
21 next witness.

22 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Spell the name, please. Let  
24 me get it down.

11:35:00

25 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXX --

1 THE COURT: XXXXX --

2 MR. PEREZ: -- XXXXX.

3 THE COURT: -- XXXXX?

4 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

11:35:08

5 THE COURT: Last name.

6 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

7 THE COURT: Ma'am, raise your right hand.

8 THE WITNESS: (Complying.)

9 (Witness sworn by the case manager through the

11:36:07

10 interpreter.)

11 CASE MANAGER: That would be helpful right here.

12 THE COURT: Don't forget we have a stool for you,  
13 if you would like it. If you need it, we have got it.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you. I just don't want  
15 to fall off of it.

11:36:17

16 THE COURT: The marshal will help you up. He can  
17 help you.

18 THE MARSHAL: I have offered her a chair. She  
19 said no, Your Honor.

11:36:29

20 THE COURT: I want you to know it's available.

21 THE INTERPRETER: I brought it this morning, Your  
22 Honor.

23 THE COURT: Oh, you brought it this morning.

24 THE INTERPRETER: I just want to check.

11:37:09

25 THE COURT: Go right ahead.

1 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,~~

3 having been first duly sworn, testified through the  
4 interpreter, as follows:

5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

6 BY MR. PEREZ:

7 **Q.** State your name for the Court and the members of the  
8 jury, please, ma'am.

9 **A.** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

11:37:26 10 **Q.** Do you see a person by the name of Tencha in the  
11 courtroom here today?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** Would you please point to her and describe what she is  
14 wearing for the Court and members of the jury, please.

11:37:47 15 **A.** Yes.

16 **Q.** Please do so.

17 **A.** (Witness indicating.)

18 **Q.** What is she wearing?

19 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

11:38:07 20 **Q.** What is she wearing?

21 **A.** A black sweater.

22 MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, may the record reflect  
23 this witness has identified the defendant, Your Honor?

24 MR. FAZEL: No objections, Your Honor.

11:38:16 25 THE COURT: The record will so reflect.

1 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Are you originally or are you from  
2 Mexico, ma'am?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And when did you come to our country, the United  
5 States?

11:38:32

6 A. 2003.

7 Q. And how did you get here?

8 A. My pimp brought me.

9 Q. Who was your pimp, ma'am?

11:38:47

10 A. Ivan Taxis Salazar.

11 Q. Is the Taxis family like a family of pimps?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And how did you meet Ivan Taxis?

14 A. In Puebla I met him.

11:39:13

15 Q. In what condition did you meet him? Did you become  
16 involved with him; or tell us the circumstances, please.

17 A. I met him in a park. And that same day he lied to me,  
18 and he took me to Tlaxcala.

19 Q. How old were you at the time?

11:39:38

20 A. I was 17 years old.

21 Q. And were you living with your parents at the time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you met him at a park; is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

11:39:52

25 Q. And then from there you went with him where?



1 A. To Tlaxcala.

2 Q. Before you met him, were you a prostitute?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And did you eventually find out that he, in fact, was  
11:40:13 5 a pimp?

6 A. I did not understand.

7 Q. At the time that you first met him, did you know that  
8 he was a pimp?

9 A. No.

11:40:27 10 Q. When did you learn that he, in fact, was a pimp?

11 A. When he started to talk and tell me that he was going  
12 to put me to work in that.

13 Q. When you say "in that," explain to the members of the  
14 jury what you mean.

11:40:54 15 A. About prostitution.

16 Q. How long after you meet him did he bring up that  
17 subject about you being a prostitute for him?

18 A. Three weeks.

19 Q. Did you agree with him that you would engage in  
11:41:18 20 prostitution for him at that time?

21 A. No. No.

22 Q. Tell the members of the jury what eventually lead you  
23 to follow his or suggest that you be a prostitute?

24 A. I didn't understand you.

11:41:42 25 Q. Okay. What did he tell you to convince you to become

1 a prostitute?

2 **A.** That if I wanted to have my things, that no one was  
3 going to tell me anything. And if I wanted to have my  
4 things, he wasn't working and that I was going to be  
5 making easy money.

11:42:14

6 **Q.** What did you tell him at that time?

7 **A.** That I didn't want to do that.

8 **Q.** Well, at some point he convinced you to do it. What  
9 lead -- what did he do to convince you to become a

11:42:32

10 prostitute?

11 **A.** He would threaten me. I had a little boy.

12 **Q.** And that little boy, was that his son?

13 **A.** No.

14 **Q.** Where was your son at that time?

11:42:54

15 **A.** With my parents.

16 **Q.** And when you say he threatened you with your son,  
17 explain that to the members of the jury, please.

18 **A.** That if I didn't work, something could happen to my  
19 child.

11:43:16

20 **Q.** And did he -- like what would happen to your child?

21 **A.** Well, any kind of an accident. He would say that  
22 since he was alone with my parents something could happen  
23 to him.

24 **Q.** And even though he used the word "accident," did you  
25 take that as a threat?

11:43:44

1 **A.** Yes.

2 **Q.** Where did you first start working for him as a  
3 prostitute?

4 **A.** In Puebla.

11:44:01

5 **Q.** Where in Puebla?

6 **A.** At Four Points. At Four Points. At a hotel Four  
7 Points.

8 **Q.** Explain to the members of the jury the circumstances  
9 under which you went to work at Four Points.

11:44:21

10 THE COURT: Where was it? What city?

11 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) What city was it?

12 **A.** Mexico.

13 THE COURT: In Mexico. Okay. In Mexico.

11:44:31

14 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Tell the members of the jury what you  
15 had to do there at Four Points, please.

16 **A.** I had to prostitute myself.

17 **Q.** And how long did you work there at Four Points as a  
18 prostitute?

19 **A.** About a year.

11:44:52

20 **Q.** What time to what time there at Four Points?

21 **A.** I don't remember.

22 **Q.** Nonetheless, it was at that hotel?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** How much did you charge?

11:45:12

25 **A.** \$50.

1 Q. How many men do you think you serviced per day at that  
2 hotel?

3 A. Between 15 and 20.

4 Q. And all the money that you made there at that hotel at  
5 Four Points, where did that money go?

11:45:35

6 A. My pimp would take it away from me.

7 Q. After that one year that you worked at that hotel,  
8 what happened next?

9 A. After that, he went to look for me; and he told me

11:46:09

10 that the police were looking for him. And so, he took me  
11 home.

12 Q. Now, you say he went to look for you at the hotel?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So from the hotel you all went where?

11:46:27

15 A. To my town.

16 Q. What town was that, again, please?

17 A. San Pedro Libres, Puebla. Excuse me, Puebla.

18 Q. Did he tell you why the police were looking for him?

19 A. No. He didn't give me any explanations.

11:47:00

20 Q. How far is Four Points from where you went to your  
21 parents?

22 A. Two hours.

23 Q. Once you arrived at your town, what happened there?

24 A. Well, my mother went to pick us up at Libres; and she

11:47:30

25 got very angry because she didn't know that already I was

1 living with someone.

2 **Q.** You had had no contact with your mom?

3 **A.** No.

4 **Q.** Why not?

11:47:44

5 **A.** Because he wouldn't let me.

6 **Q.** How long did you all stay with your mom when you  
7 arrived at your town?

8 **A.** About half a year.

9 **Q.** What did you do when you were there with your mom?

11:48:05

10 **A.** Home.

11 **Q.** Was your pimp living with you at the time?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** Did you work as a prostitute at that time while living  
14 with your mom?

11:48:21

15 **A.** No. No.

16 **Q.** After that six months, what happened next?

17 **A.** We again returned to Tlaxcala.

18 **Q.** When you were there with your mom, why didn't you tell  
19 your mom what was going on and escape from him at that  
20 time?

11:48:41

21 **A.** Because I was afraid.

22 **Q.** Afraid of whom?

23 **A.** Him.

24 **Q.** Why were you afraid of him?

11:48:53

25 **A.** My pimp.

1 Q. Why were you afraid of your pimp?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Why?

4 A. Because he would always threaten me about my family.

11:49:10

5 Q. Tell the members of the jury specifically why would he  
6 threaten your family?

7 A. He would always tell me that my parents were old and  
8 something could happen to my parents or something could  
9 happen to my child and I didn't have anybody else's

11:49:49

10 support and because my parents were old. And he told me  
11 that if I didn't do what he told me to do, then he was  
12 going to harm my parents and my child because I didn't  
13 have the support from my brothers.

14 Q. After those six months, what happened next?

11:50:27

15 A. We went to Tlaxcala.

16 Q. Once you arrived at Tlaxcala, what happened there?

17 A. I returned to work.

18 Q. As a prostitute?

19 A. Yes. Yes.

11:50:42

20 Q. How long did you work as a prostitute at Tlaxcala at  
21 that time?

22 A. For about two years.

23 Q. And after two years, what happened next?

24 A. After two years, I went to Tijuana.

11:51:06

25 Q. Who sent you to Tijuana?

1 A. My pimp.

2 Q. Did he go with you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Explain to the members of the jury how he was able to  
5 control you once you went to Tijuana.

11:51:18

6 A. Because he sent me with another girl, another  
7 prostitute.

8 THE COURT: All right. I want to see the  
9 attorneys up here, please. Wait for her to get her  
10 earphones on.

11:51:36

11 (Proceedings held at sidebar.)

12 THE COURT: Okay. What is the necessity of going  
13 through the heavy backgrounds of everybody outside of the  
14 country? Why can't you just summarize it and then get  
15 what happened when they came here? Now, wait a second.  
16 I'm talking to Perez.

11:51:58

17 MR. PEREZ: The problem is this, Your Honor, is  
18 that yesterday we did exactly what the Court said.

19 THE COURT: And?

20 MR. PEREZ: And then Mr. Ali then attacked us or  
21 impeached the witness as to what had happened during those  
22 four years. Yesterday the witness came in from '97. She  
23 arrived in 2001. We went, basically, to 2001. So then he  
24 had a field day from '97 to 2001.

11:52:08

25 THE COURT: All right. Do you want to respond?

11:52:27

1 I'm not jumping in your case. This is a question I had.  
2 I understand now.

3 MR. PEREZ: Yes.

4 MR. FAZEL: I have no response, Your Honor. I  
5 don't know if I can explain it.

6 THE COURT: Why don't you speed it up.

7 MR. PEREZ: I'm trying, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Go through the early years. Go.  
9 Just speed it up.

10 MR. PEREZ: Okay. I'm trying to. It's a long  
11 history.

12 THE COURT: I understand that. I just wanted to  
13 know.

14 MR. PEREZ: I will try, Judge. Thank you, Your  
15 Honor.

16 (Proceedings concluded at sidebar.)

17 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) After you got to Tlaxcala, you worked  
18 there as a prostitute for how long?

19 **A.** About two years.

20 **Q.** And again, during that time your pimp was Ivan when  
21 you went to Tijuana; is that right?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** You told us that Ivan did not go with you to Tijuana,  
24 but he sent you with another prostitute?

25 **A.** Yes.



1 Q. Now, explain to the members of the jury how that  
2 prostitute was able to control you even though your pimp  
3 wasn't with you.

4 A. Because we stayed in the same room. She took me to  
5 work.

11:53:46

6 Q. Well, why wouldn't you escape from this prostitute?

7 A. Because I was afraid.

8 Q. Afraid of what?

9 A. As I have stated before, that he would harm my family.

11:54:10

10 Q. "He" being your pimp?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How long were you in Tijuana?

13 A. Half a year.

14 Q. After that half year, what happened next?

11:54:28

15 A. I had my little girl.

16 Q. Was the little girl the offspring of your pimp?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Explain that to the members of the jury that you are  
19 in Tijuana and you get pregnant. How did that happen by  
20 your pimp?

11:54:49

21 A. No. When I went to Tijuana, I was already pregnant.

22 Q. By your pimp?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You get to Tijuana. You work there. And then, you  
25 go -- what happened next during your, you know, once you

11:55:09

1 got your baby?

2 **A.** Afterwards, after a month, I went to work again as a  
3 prostitute.

4 **Q.** Well, where did you have your baby?

11:55:33

5 **A.** Tlaxcala.

6 **Q.** You went back to Tlaxcala, delivered; and then a month  
7 later, you went back to Tijuana to work as a prostitute?

8 **A.** No. I returned to Puebla to work.

11:55:48

9 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to ask that you  
10 speed this up. Okay.

11 MR. PEREZ: Okay.

12 THE COURT: Move it along.

13 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

14 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) And then you went to work at Puebla.

11:55:55

15 What happened -- how long did you work at Puebla?

16 **A.** About half a year.

17 **Q.** After the half year, where did you go next?

18 **A.** To Matamoros.

19 **Q.** After Matamoros, where did you go?

11:56:12

20 **A.** Houston.

21 **Q.** How long did you work at Matamoros?

22 **A.** Matamoros, eight months.

23 **Q.** And then from Matamoros you came to Houston?

24 **A.** Yes.

11:56:25

25 **Q.** Did you work at Las Palmas when you arrived in

1 Houston?

2 **A.** No.

3 **Q.** Where did you work when you arrived in Houston?

4 **A.** At Las Chiquillas.

11:56:40

5 **Q.** Who got you the job? How long did you work at Las  
6 Chiquillas?

7 **A.** Two months.

8 **Q.** Then after working at Las Chiquillas for two months,  
9 where did you work next?

11:56:55

10 **A.** In El Capricho.

11 **Q.** And did you arrive in the United States illegally from  
12 Mexico when you went to work at these locations?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** After working at Las Chiquillas, where did you work  
15 next?

11:57:11

16 **A.** At El Capricho.

17 **Q.** And after El Capricho, where did you work next?

18 **A.** At Las Carinosas.

19 **Q.** After the Las Carinosas where did you work next?

11:57:28

20 **A.** At Flamingo.

21 **Q.** After the Flamingo where did you work?

22 **A.** At Las Palmas.

23 **Q.** Did you work there during the week or on weekends?

24 **A.** Weekends.

11:57:43

25 **Q.** Was that Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday

1 night?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** And did you work there from May 2003 to May of 2007?

4 **A.** Yes.

11:57:55

5 **Q.** And was that all the time on the weekends?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** Who hired you there at Las Palmas?

8 **A.** A girl took me.

9 **Q.** Okay. What happened when you arrived at Las Palmas

11:58:17

10 when that girl took you?

11 **A.** She explained to me how everything was going to be  
12 there.

13 **Q.** Who explained that to you?

14 **A.** The girl.

11:58:31

15 **Q.** So she took you to Las Palmas, and you got hired at  
16 Las Palmas?

17 **A.** Yes. They had already spoken with Tencha.

18 **Q.** Who had spoken to Tencha?

19 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

11:58:56

20 **Q.** So, in essence, Tencha hired you?

21 **A.** The girl who took me, yes.

22 **Q.** Did you ever have contact there with Tencha at Las  
23 Palmas?

24 **A.** Yes.

11:59:15

25 **Q.** Explain to the members of the jury how many times you

1 had contact with Tencha there at Las Palmas.

2 **A.** Twice.

3 **Q.** Were those meetings?

4 **A.** Yes.

11:59:31

5 **Q.** Let's talk about the first meeting. What happened at  
6 the first meeting?

7 **A.** When we arrived there the first while that we were  
8 there, it was dedicated to her.

9 **Q.** Explain that to the members of the jury, please.

11:59:59

10 **A.** If we wanted to work there, the time that we spent  
11 with the first man was for her.

12 **Q.** What do you mean? The money?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** How much was that?

12:00:19

15 **A.** \$65.

16 **Q.** And what else did she tell you at that first meeting?

17 **A.** That's all she would tell us, and that she didn't want  
18 to see us because she didn't want to have any trouble with  
19 the police.

12:00:43

20 **Q.** She didn't want to see you beaten; is that right?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** Beaten by whom?

23 **MR. FAZEL:** Objection to speculation, Your Honor.

24 **A.** By the pimp.

12:00:59

25 **MR. FAZEL:** Move to strike from the record, Your

1 Honor.

2 THE COURT: Well, sustained. So instructed.

3 Next question, please.

12:01:13

4 Q. (By Mr. Perez) And then you said you had a second  
5 meeting with Tencha there at Las Palmas?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What was the meeting about at that time?

8 A. When it was a holiday, if we missed, she would charge  
9 us \$50.

12:01:33

10 Q. Okay. What else did she say?

11 A. That's all I remember.

12 Q. Did you ever overhear Tencha ask a female why she was  
13 coming with bruises to work?

14 A. Yes.

12:02:03

15 Q. Did Tencha then tell the female that she didn't want  
16 her pimp beating her and her coming to work like that  
17 because she would not allow her to work there anymore?

18 MR. FAZEL: Objection, Your Honor. It's leading  
19 the witness severely. I know the circumstances but --

12:02:21

20 THE COURT: Sustained as to the form of the  
21 question.

22 MR. PEREZ: Okay, Your Honor.

23 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Did you overhear Tencha tell this girl  
24 not to -- about she didn't want the pimp beating her?

12:02:35

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Explain to the members of the jury what she told her.

2 A. That she didn't want to see them beaten because she  
3 didn't want to have any problems with the police.

4 Q. Did she ever talk about the girls there being minors?

12:03:03

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did she ever talk about the girls having fake ID's?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Explain to the members of the jury what she would tell  
9 them about girls who were underage.

12:03:23

10 A. As long as they brought an ID that said they were of  
11 age, they could work.

12 Q. Did she care whether the ID was fake or not?

13 MR. FAZEL: Object to speculation.

14 THE COURT: Sustained.

12:03:45

15 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Do you remember that about 2005, 2006  
16 you saw Tencha stop one of the females coming to work  
17 there because the female had bruises on her body?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Explain to the members of the jury what that was all  
20 about, please.

12:04:05

21 A. That if she kept coming to work with bruises she  
22 wouldn't let her work anymore.

23 MR. PEREZ: May I have a conversation with the  
24 defense attorney, Your Honor?

12:04:28

25 THE COURT: Sure.

1 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

2 Q. (By Mr. Perez) I'm going to show you a picture P-1.

3 Do you recognize the picture on P-1?

4 A. Yes.

12:05:09

5 Q. What is P-1, please?

6 A. The place where I worked.

7 Q. Is that the cantina owned by Tencha?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. P-19. Do you recognize the person on P-19?

12:05:33

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What name do you associate or what name do you know  
12 this person by?

13 A. XXXXXX.

14 Q. What about P-20? You have already identified Tencha  
15 already. How about P-21?

12:05:48

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Who is on P-21?

18 A. I know her, but I don't remember her name.

19 Q. Where did you see the person depicted on P-21?

12:06:07

20 A. At the Capricho.

21 Q. How about XXXXXX, the one you recognized earlier,  
22 where did she work?

23 A. At Las Palmas.

24 Q. Both of these they worked as prostitutes?

12:06:24

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. How about P-22, do you recognize that person?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Where did she work as a prostitute?

4 A. Flamingo and Las Palmas.

12:06:43

5 Q. P-23. Do you recognize the person on P-23?

6 A. Also.

7 Q. Do you know her name?

8 A. XXXXX.

9 Q. XXXXX looks pretty young in that picture; is that

12:07:05

10 right?

11 MR. FAZEL: Objection to speculation, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Sustained. You can rephrase it.

13 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Does she appear to be old or young in  
14 this picture?

12:07:15

15 A. Young.

16 Q. Is that the way she looked when you saw her working at  
17 the Las Palmas?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you know whether she had an ID?

12:07:33

20 A. I don't know.

21 Q. P-24. Do you know the person on P-24?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you know her name?

24 A. XXXXX.

12:07:50

25 Q. Did she work there at Las Palmas, as well?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. As a prostitute?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. All these women depicted on these pictures they are

12:07:59

5 all prostitutes working at Las Palmas except for one of  
6 them; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. P-25, do you know that person?

9 A. Yes.

12:08:15

10 Q. Do you know her name?

11 A. I don't remember.

12 Q. She worked at Las Palmas, as well?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. As a prostitute?

12:08:24

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. P-26, do you recognize that person?

17 A. Also.

18 Q. Did you ever see this person with bruises there at Las  
19 Palmas?

12:08:44

20 A. A lot.

21 Q. Explain the bruises that you saw on this person  
22 depicted on P-26.

23 A. Her arms, her legs, her face.

24 Q. There at Las Palmas?

12:09:05

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. P-31, who is that fellow?

2 A. I don't remember.

3 Q. Okay. How about P-34?

4 A. Neither.

12:09:30

5 Q. P-35?

6 A. No.

7 Q. How about P-67?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And where do you -- what's her name, if you know?

12:09:52

10 A. I don't remember.

11 Q. She worked where?

12 A. At Las Palmas.

13 Q. Were all these people depicted here on these  
14 photographs illegal, including yourself?

12:10:07

15 A. No.

16 Q. They were legal?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When you say "legal," what do you mean? When they  
19 were working there, did they have papers?

12:10:20

20 A. (Speaking Spanish.)

21 Q. My fault. I need to be more specific. These people  
22 that you just depicted -- that you identified as being  
23 depicted on these pictures, were they in the country  
24 illegally?

12:10:37

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. In other words, like you, they came into the country  
2 with no permission?

3 A. (Speaking Spanish.)

4 Q. Were they in the country illegally?

12:10:52

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. PEREZ: May I have a moment, Your Honor?

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

12:11:36

9 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Do you recall a situation where a  
10 person named XXXXXXXXXXXX wanted to work there at Las Palmas?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Explain to the members of the jury what happened with  
13 XXXXXXXXXXXX when she wanted to work at Las Palmas.

12:12:03

14 A. She arrived looking for work, but they wouldn't give  
15 her any because they didn't know her. Then she said she  
16 knew me. She said she knew me, XXXXXXXXXXXX then. Tencha  
17 talked to me and asked me if I knew her; and I said, no.  
18 My pimp called me and said she belonged to another pimp,  
19 that I should recommend her. So I told Tencha, and Tencha  
20 gave her work.

12:12:50

21 Q. Did Tencha also not want to hire her because she  
22 appeared to be a minor?

23 MR. FAZEL: Objection to leading, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

12:12:58

25 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Did Tencha discuss her being a minor

1 with you?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** Explain to the members of the jury what that was all  
4 about.

12:13:14

5 **A.** She said that if she didn't have an ID she could get  
6 one that would show she was of age.

7 **Q.** So she knew she was a minor?

8 **A.** Yes.

12:13:38

9 **Q.** One last question, ma'am. What were the going rates  
10 there for prostitution at Las Palmas?

11 **A.** From \$55 to \$65.

12 **Q.** And then, money that was made from the clients there,  
13 what happened to your money?

14 **A.** My pimp would take it.

12:14:03

15 **Q.** And the rest of the money would go to Las Palmas?

16 **A.** Yes.

17 **Q.** And Tencha was the owner of Las Palmas?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 MR. PEREZ: Pass the witness, Your Honor.

12:14:15

20 MR. FAZEL: May I proceed, Your Honor?

21 THE COURT: Go right ahead.

22 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

23 BY MR. FAZEL:

12:14:26

24 **Q.** Good morning, ma'am. My name is Ali Fazel. You and I  
25 have never spoken before, have we?

1 **A.** No.

2 **Q.** I'm going to ask you some questions, and I'm going to  
3 try to make this quick. So if I ask something quickly or  
4 you don't understand me, you let me know; and I'll repeat  
5 myself. Is that okay?

12:14:37

6 **A.** Okay.

7 **Q.** Just very briefly, the events that transpired in  
8 Mexico, when you were in Mexico, those occurred between  
9 you and your pimp, correct?

12:14:54

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** And Ms. Medeles that's sitting right next to me here  
12 had nothing to do with that; is that correct?

13 **A.** No.

14 **Q.** Okay. And how long were you with your -- how many  
15 years were you with your pimp in Mexico where he forced  
16 you into prostitution?

12:15:07

17 **A.** Three to four years.

18 **Q.** In Mexico, correct?

19 **A.** Yes.

12:15:25

20 **Q.** And then he is the one that paid for you to come back  
21 into the United States, correct?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** And let's be clear about this. Even in the United  
24 States he had control over where you went to work, when

12:15:40

25 you went to work, and how you went to work, correct?

1 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

2 **Q.** That's okay. It's a bad question.

3 **A.** I didn't understand.

4 **Q.** Even in the United States he had control over when you  
5 went to work, correct?

12:15:56

6 **A.** I don't understand.

7 **Q.** Your pimp is the one that told you exactly what time  
8 you had to go to work, correct?

9 **A.** Yes.

12:16:10

10 **Q.** And your pimp is the one that told you exactly where  
11 you had to go to work, correct?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** And he is the one that told you when you could have  
14 days off and where you had to live, correct?

12:16:24

15 **A.** Yes.

16 **Q.** Did you get a cell phone, or did he give you a cell  
17 phone?

18 **A.** My pimp gave it to me.

19 **Q.** And when you were here in the United States, did you  
20 live in an apartment?

12:16:38

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** Did you live by yourself?

23 **A.** No.

24 **Q.** How many people lived with you?

12:16:51

25 **A.** Four.

1 Q. And the pimps arranged for you to go to wherever they  
2 wanted you to go to, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Ms. Medeles had nothing to do with that; is that  
5 correct?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What time frame did you start working -- I'm sorry. I  
8 lost track of this. I want to be clear. What year did  
9 you start working at Las Palmas?

10 A. 2006.

11 Q. Okay. And you were at Las Palmas for how long?

12 A. About two years.

13 Q. Okay. And when you were there, all the girls that  
14 were there are they all downstairs working at the bar  
15 area?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then, if you found a client who wanted to have sex  
18 with you, you would go upstairs, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And there was nobody that lived upstairs, was there?

21 A. No.

22 Q. All right. There were no girls that lived upstairs,  
23 correct?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. Did you ever have an occasion where there



1 was -- there was no meetings between you, the other girls  
2 and anybody at Las Palmas was there?

3 **A.** I didn't understand.

4 **Q.** There were never an occasion when there was a meeting  
5 between all the girls at Las Palmas, including you and  
6 anybody that was working at Las Palmas, correct?

7 **A.** I don't understand.

8 **Q.** Was there ever a time where you and all the other  
9 girls at Las Palmas had a joint meeting involving anybody  
10 that was working at Las Palmas, anybody other than the  
11 girls?

12 **A.** No.

13 **Q.** Ms. Medeles never hit you, did she?

14 **A.** No.

15 **Q.** It was always your --

16 **A.** No.

17 **Q.** It was always your pimp that hit you, correct?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** You were -- you were afraid of your pimp, correct?

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** He was the one that was forcing you to do this,  
22 correct?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 MR. FAZEL: May I have a moment, Your Honor?

25 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

1 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

2 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) Did you have a driver's license in the  
3 United States in 2010, ma'am?

4 **A.** No.

12:20:27

5 **Q.** Did you drive in 2010?

6 **A.** No.

7 **Q.** Were you deported in 2010?

8 **A.** No.

9 **Q.** Okay. Do you understand what I mean by "deported"?

12:20:56

10 Like forced to exit the country by immigration  
11 authorities?

12 **A.** No.

13 **Q.** Are you telling the ladies and gentlemen of the jury  
14 that you were never deported from this country and then  
15 returned back?

12:21:19

16 **A.** Okay. I had a voluntary exit but not in 2010.

17 **Q.** The voluntary exit is when you were in immigration  
18 custody and you didn't fight the deportation, they just  
19 allowed you to leave, correct?

12:21:46

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** And then, when you went back to Mexico, you  
22 reconnected with your pimp?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** And then you came back into the country with the help  
25 of your pimp?

12:22:00

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did your -- did your pimp ever tell -- ask you  
3 permission to get another girl to have as a prostitute?

4 A. Yes.

12:22:45

5 Q. And did you say that was okay with you?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You said you didn't want him to do that?

8 A. Yes.

12:23:05

9 Q. Okay. Let's be clear. He asked you to allow him to  
10 get another girl to be a prostitute just like yourself,  
11 correct?

12 MR. MAGLIOLO: Your Honor, may we get a time  
13 frame, if there is one, so the jury will understand?

14 THE COURT: Do we have a time frame?

12:23:17

15 MR. FAZEL: I don't have one.

16 THE COURT: All right. Go on. Keep -- let's  
17 keep going.

18 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) Did he ever ask you to allow him to  
19 get another person to be a prostitute? Do you remember  
12:23:29 20 that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And it's your position to this jury that you didn't  
23 want him to do that?

24 A. No.

12:23:39

25 Q. Have you said something different at different

1 occasions that you did want him to do that?

2 **A.** No.

3 **Q.** Did you work at Las Palmas the first time you were in  
4 the United States or the second time?

12:24:24

5 **A.** The second time.

6 **Q.** So the first time you were in the United States, you  
7 had no contact with Las Palmas?

8 **A.** No.

12:24:46

9 **Q.** Do you remember writing out an affidavit -- let me  
10 back up. You are here in the United States right now  
11 living, correct?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** And you have a job, correct?

14 **A.** Yes.

12:24:55

15 **Q.** And you obtained a T-visa through your assistance with  
16 the government, correct?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** So you provided information or assisted the  
19 government. The government provided you a T-visa,  
20 correct?

12:25:10

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** And part of that assistance is they obtained an  
23 immigration lawyer for you?

24 **A.** Yes.

12:25:19

25 **Q.** And you provided an affidavit to that immigration

1 lawyer outlining what happened to you?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** And you read that affidavit and signed it?

4 **A.** No.

12:25:36 5 **Q.** You didn't read it?

6 **A.** No.

7 **Q.** You just signed it?

8 **A.** Yes.

9 **Q.** Did they read it for you?

12:25:50 10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** In Spanish?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** And you agreed with it and signed it?

14 **A.** Yes.

12:26:48 15 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

16 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) I direct your attention to this  
17 document. Can you read Spanish?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** I'm directing you to this document right here, the  
12:26:59 20 last page. That is your signature?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** Take a look at page four for me, okay, please.

23 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

24 **A.** (Witness complying.)

12:27:18 25 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) Do you see where it says when you

1 explain that one day you were asked by your pimp if he  
2 could get another girl so you don't have to work; and you  
3 said, "Yes. I don't care"?

4 **A.** I don't see it here.

12:28:27

5 MR. FAZEL: Sorry, Your Honor. The pages are a  
6 little off here. I apologize. Can I have one second,  
7 Your Honor?

8 THE COURT: All right.

12:28:44

9 MR. FAZEL: (addressing interpreter) Let me get  
10 your help real quick to make sure I don't get this wrong.  
11 Thank you.

12 THE INTERPRETER: Sure.

13 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel and the  
14 interpreter.)

12:29:49

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) Do you see it, ma'am?

17 **A.** No.

18 **Q.** You don't see that part of the Spanish translation  
19 that says what we just discussed?

12:30:02

20 THE COURT: Ask it again.

21 MR. FAZEL: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Start again.

23 MR. FAZEL: Yes, sir.

12:30:09

24 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) Do you see where you said that your  
25 pimp asked permission if you could get another woman and

12:30:30

12:30:49

12:31:12

12:31:20

12:31:34

Laura Wells, RMR, CRR - LauraWellsCSR@comcast.com

1 may step down. You are excused. You are free to leave.

2 Call your next witness.

3 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Raise your right hand, please.

12:32:43

5 (Witness sworn by the Court through the interpreter.)

6 THE COURT: All right. Let's go.

7 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~,

8 having been first duly sworn, testified through the

9 interpreter as follows:

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

11 BY MR. PEREZ:

12 **Q.** State your name for the Court and the members of the  
13 jury, please, ma'am.

14 **A.** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

12:32:55

15 **Q.** And were you born in Mexico, ma'am?

16 **A.** Yes.

17 **Q.** And what is your date of birth?

18 **A.** July 23, 1987.

19 **Q.** And when you were in Mexico, did you meet a person and  
20 become involved with that person?

12:33:16

21 **A.** Yes. Jose Luis.

22 **Q.** How old were you at the time that you met Jose Luis?

23 **A.** I was going to be 15.

24 **Q.** And where did you meet Jose Luis?

12:33:33

25 **A.** At a disco.



1 Q. And did you eventually become romantically involved  
2 with Jose Luis?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And at some point did you learn that Jose Luis was, in  
5 fact, a pimp?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You never learned that he was a pimp?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. No. No.

11 Q. Was he your pimp at some point?

12 A. Yes, because I was going around with him. He was my  
13 boyfriend.

14 Q. When you met him, then he became your boyfriend?

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. When you met him, you mentioned he became your  
17 boyfriend?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And at some point did he ask you to be engaged in  
20 prostitution?

21 A. At the beginning he didn't.

22 Q. I understand. But later did he do that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How long after you met him did he tell you he wanted  
25 you to engage in prostitution?

1 **A.** Two or three months after we became boyfriend and  
2 girlfriend.

3 **Q.** What did he want you to do after those two or three  
4 months?

12:35:03

5 **A.** That I should prostitute myself in Mexico.

6 **Q.** And that you do so in Mexico at that time?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Why?

9 **A.** That if I loved him I should become a prostitute.

12:35:26

10 That it wasn't anything bad. That if I loved him I had to  
11 support him in that enterprise by working like that. That  
12 it wasn't bad because I was charging for my services for  
13 what I was doing.

14 **Q.** Again, how old were you at that time?

12:35:53

15 **A.** 14. I was about to be 15.

16 **Q.** Where did you first engage in prostitution in Mexico?

17 **A.** With him when I became his girlfriend.

18 **Q.** Where?

19 **A.** In the DF.

12:36:16

20 **Q.** Where at the DF did you work as a prostitute?

21 **A.** On the street. We would line up on the street so that  
22 afterwards we would go to a hotel.

23 **Q.** And did you do that at the hotel?

24 **A.** Yes. When he put me on that line, yes.

12:36:45

25 **Q.** How long did you work at that hotel at the -- in

1 Mexico City?

2 **A.** A year almost.

3 **Q.** If you didn't engage in prostitution, what would Jose  
4 Luis do to you?

12:37:08

5 **A.** Could you repeat?

6 **Q.** Okay. At that point did you -- let me start over.

7 At that point, did you realize that he, in fact, was a  
8 pimp?

12:37:27

9 **A.** No. Because at the beginning I was not in Mexico  
10 City. I was kept at the house of an uncle.

11 **Q.** Let me ask you this: What is your boyfriend's name at  
12 that time again?

13 **A.** Jose Luis.

14 **Q.** You know what a pimp is, right?

12:37:46

15 **A.** It's a man that prostitutes women. It's a man that  
16 sells women to other men.

17 **Q.** Do you consider Jose Luis a pimp?

18 **A.** No.

19 **Q.** Why not?

12:38:00

20 **A.** Because he looked like a normal person.

21 **Q.** I understand that. But once he convinced you to  
22 become a prostitute, at that point did you think of him as  
23 a pimp?

12:38:27

24 **A.** I was underage. He was my first boyfriend. I was  
25 blinded. I was in love.

1 Q. Oh, okay. At that point you said he is not a pimp?

2 He is my boyfriend?

3 A. My boyfriend.

4 Q. And then there working at that hotel in Mexico City,

12:38:42

5 how long did you work there again?

6 A. About a year.

7 Q. And if you didn't want to work there -- did you ever

8 tell Jose Luis you didn't want to work there anymore?

9 A. Yes.

12:38:59

10 Q. What did he tell you?

11 A. He hit me.

12 Q. Describe the beating to the members of the jury,

13 please.

14 A. My arms, my back, my legs. He would always try to hit

12:39:26

15 me on my body.

16 Q. Why just on your body?

17 A. So people wouldn't see it on my face.

18 Q. The money you made from prostitution, where did that

19 money go?

12:39:44

20 A. To him.

21 Q. Did he have other associates in the pimping business?

22 A. Yes. His uncles, his cousins, his brother.

23 Q. After you worked there at Mexico City at that hotel,

24 where did you go next?

12:40:09

25 A. I was brought as an immigrant here to the United

1 States.

2 **Q.** Did Jose Luis bring you?

3 **A.** No. I came with an aunt of his.

4 **Q.** What was the aunt's name?

12:40:24

5 **A.** Fabiola.

6 **Q.** She accompanied you from Mexico City to the United  
7 States?

8 **A.** Four of us came. Jose Luis, Gerardo Salazar and I.

9 **Q.** Does Gerardo Salazar have a nickname?

12:40:54

10 **A.** El Gallo.

11 **Q.** Now, how is it that you were able to cross -- all four  
12 of you were able to cross to the United States? Did you  
13 have the services of a coyote?

14 **A.** Aided by a coyote.

12:41:09

15 **Q.** Who paid the coyote?

16 **A.** El Gallo. They made the arrangements with the coyote.

17 **Q.** How old were you at that time when you crossed into  
18 the United States?

19 **A.** Exactly 15.

12:41:25

20 **Q.** When you say exactly 15, why do you say that?

21 **A.** Because when I started with him, I was 14; and we  
22 celebrated my birthday there in Mexico.

23 **Q.** When you crossed into the United States, what city in  
24 the United States did you go to?

12:41:50

25 **A.** Here in Houston, Texas.

1 Q. And where did you go live here in Houston, Texas?

2 A. Some apartments, Willow Bend something, Willow Creek  
3 or Willow Creek.

4 Q. Who lived in those apartments?

12:42:16 5 A. I lived with Fabiola, and El Gallo arrived every now  
6 and then.

7 Q. Where was Jose Luis?

8 A. He was my pimp, I could say.

9 Q. Okay. Earlier you didn't consider him your pimp. You  
12:42:37 10 considered him a boyfriend. And now you have told the  
11 members of the jury he is your pimp. What changed there,  
12 please?

13 A. That he turned me into a prostitute in Mexico, and he  
14 came to do the same thing here in the United States.

12:42:57 15 Q. So now you realize he is your pimp?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You didn't really want to believe that he was your  
18 pimp? You wanted to believe that he was going to be your  
19 boyfriend?

12:43:11 20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You get to Houston. You live in this apartment. You  
22 said you worked, lived with Fabiola; and once in a while  
23 El Gallo would show up?

24 A. Yes.

12:43:23 25 Q. Where was Jose Luis during that time?

1 **A.** A few months, at first, Fabiola and I were alone; but  
2 after a few months El Gallo and Jose Luis came over.

3 **Q.** Let me see if I can figure this out. Okay. You said  
4 all four of you all came to Houston; is that right?

12:43:53

5 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

6 **Q.** You said that El Gallo, Fabiola, Jose Luis and you  
7 crossed over to the United States and came to Houston?

8 **A.** No. Only Fabiola and I crossed over.

9 **Q.** Okay. So when you got to the border, they returned?

12:44:09

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** So then Fabiola and you come to Houston, and you are  
12 living in an apartment with Fabiola?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** Question: Why didn't you escape once they returned to  
15 Mexico and you and Fabiola came to Houston?

12:44:22

16 **A.** Because I was under threat.

17 **Q.** Threat of what? Explain it, please.

18 **A.** If I left, they knew where my family lived. They knew  
19 I had sisters, and I didn't want for them to go through  
20 the same thing that I was going through.

12:44:59

21 **Q.** How many sisters do you have?

22 **MR. FAZEL:** Excuse me?

23 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) How many sisters do you have?

24 **A.** Two sisters.

12:45:10

25 **Q.** Younger or older than you?

1 A. Younger than me.

2 Q. So you get to Houston. You are living in an  
3 apartment. Did you go work as a prostitute at a location  
4 here in Houston?

12:45:26

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Where?

7 A. At the cantinas and first at El Capricho.

8 Q. How long did you work at the Capricho?

9 A. Four or five months.

12:45:45

10 Q. And after the Capricho where did you work?

11 A. In La Costenita.

12 Q. How long did you work at the La Costenita?

13 A. Three or four months, more or less.

14 Q. Then after the Costenita, where did you go next?

12:46:09

15 A. Leaving Costenita, I went to Las Palmas.

16 Q. So you would work at La Costenita during the day and  
17 Las Palmas after you got out?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Was that on the week -- did you work at Las Palmas on  
20 the weekends?

12:46:27

21 A. From Friday to Sunday from 2:00 a.m. on.

22 Q. At Las Palmas?

23 A. Can you repeat?

24 Q. You worked from 2:00 until 5:00 in the morning,

12:46:53

25 Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Las Palmas?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who hired you to work there at Las Palmas?

3 A. Ms. Tencha.

4 Q. Is Tencha in the courtroom here today? You can stand  
12:47:11 5 up and look around.

6 A. It is she, the one who is sitting over there.

7 Q. Can you point to her or describe her hair?

8 A. When I arrived at the cantina, her hair was dark.

9 Q. How about now?

12:47:39 10 A. It's gray or white.

11 MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, may the record reflect  
12 this witness has identified the defendant, Tencha?

13 THE COURT: The record will so reflect.

14 A. Could you repeat?

12:47:52 15 THE COURT: No. Let's keep going.

16 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

17 Q. (By Mr. Perez) So she hired you. How long did you  
18 work at Las Palmas the first time? I know you were --

19 A. The first time I came almost a year.

12:48:10 20 Q. And that was about 2004?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And how old were you when you started working  
23 at Las Palmas in 2004?

24 A. The first time, I was 15.

12:48:28 25 Q. And Tencha hired you; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who introduced you to Tencha?

3 A. Fabiola took me to Tencha.

4 Q. In fact, Tencha asked Fabiola if you were a minor,  
5 right?

12:48:49

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And Fabiola said no, and Tencha hired you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How much were the charges there at Las Palmas for  
10 prostitution?

12:49:06

11 A. \$65.

12 Q. How much would you keep?

13 A. \$50.

14 Q. For those \$50, where did those \$50 go?

12:49:27

15 A. We would give the money for the person who was there  
16 in charge of the rooms for the preservative [sic] and the  
17 room.

18 Q. Now you would get \$50, I think, right?

19 A. I, \$50.

12:49:45

20 Q. What would you do with those \$50 or the accumulation  
21 of those \$50?

22 A. I would give it to Jose Luis.

23 Q. Jose Luis is in Mexico?

24 A. Yes.

12:49:59

25 Q. How would you get the money to him in Mexico?

1 A. The aunt would deposit it.

2 Q. That was Fabiola?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So you gave the money to Fabiola?

12:50:16 5 A. Yes. I would give the money to Fabiola.

6 Q. Did you have a stage name or a name you used there at  
7 the Las Palmas?

8 A. XXXXXX.

9 Q. And then, you got \$50. And then, you mentioned there  
12:50:37 10 was another fee involved. Explain those fees to the  
11 members of the jury, please.

12 A. What I did with the \$50?

13 Q. I'm sorry. We already know what you did with the \$50.  
14 You said something about condoms and the use of the rooms?

12:51:01 15 A. \$15 for the condom and \$50 were for me. For \$50 I had  
16 to get naked, take -- and if I didn't want to work --

17 Q. Did you have a quota, ma'am?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Now, you worked there as a minor in 2004. Did you  
12:51:52 20 then quit working at Las Palmas in 2004?

21 A. Yes. I left from Mexico.

22 MR. PEREZ: Is something wrong?

23 THE INTERPRETER: I was coughing. Sorry. The  
24 translator was coughing. Sorry.

12:52:12 25 MR. PEREZ: Are you okay?

1 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Thank  
2 you.

3 A. He coughed, and I couldn't hear it.

12:52:28

4 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Again, you worked in 2004 the first  
5 time; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you said you went to Mexico?

8 A. Yes.

12:52:39

9 Q. Explain to the members of the jury those  
10 circumstances, please.

11 A. I came here in November of 2003 and I left in October  
12 of 2004 and I went to Mexico.

13 Q. Now, did you go home voluntarily; or what are the  
14 circumstances under which you left?

12:53:07

15 A. No. Jose Luis took me.

16 Q. So he had come to the United States?

17 A. Yes. Jose Luis and El Gallo had already come here.

18 Q. So he took you to Mexico?

12:53:32

19 A. He bought the tickets. One night when I arrived home  
20 from working at Las Palmas when I arrived at the apartment  
21 there were two big suitcases and tickets for the plane.  
22 And he said the next day we were leaving for Mexico.

23 MR. PEREZ: (addressing interpreter) Not "from"  
24 Mexico "to."

12:53:55

25 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Well, okay. So what happened then?

1 **A.** Arriving in Mexico I stayed for a while at his  
2 mother's house. In April 2005, I was working at the -- in  
3 Mexico City.

4 **Q.** You were working there as a prostitute?

12:54:23

5 **A.** Yes. I was working, yes.

6 **Q.** Again, the moneys made from the prostitution would go  
7 to whom?

8 **A.** Jose Luis.

9 **Q.** If you didn't work there, what would happen to you?

12:54:39

10 **A.** He would hit me.

11 **Q.** Then what happened?

12 **A.** He would threaten me. He would say he would bring one  
13 of my sisters. He knew where my family lived.

14 **Q.** How long did you work at the -- in Mexico the  
15 second -- well, when you went back?

12:55:03

16 **A.** About three months. And in April I returned here  
17 again.

18 **Q.** Did he come back with you?

19 **A.** No. He came separately.

12:55:23

20 **Q.** Did he send you by yourself?

21 **A.** No. He sent me with El Gallo, Teodora and another  
22 lady.

23 **Q.** You all came by air?

24 **A.** No. No. We crossed the border as wetbacks.

12:55:46

25 **Q.** Once you crossed the border, where did you wind up?

1 A. Here in Houston, the same.

2 Q. Once you arrived in Houston, where did you work?

3 A. La Costenita.

4 Q. Did you work at Las Palmas when you returned from  
5 Mexico?

12:56:05

6 A. Yes. I returned to Las Palmas again.

7 Q. On the weekends?

8 A. Yes. We would start at 2:00 a.m. in that cantina.

9 Q. Was Tencha still the owner of that place, Las Palmas?

12:56:24

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Who hired you the second time?

12 A. She herself. Fabiola took me again.

13 Q. And again, at that point Fabiola introduced you to  
14 Tencha; and you get hired again?

12:56:45

15 A. No.

16 Q. Let me ask it another way. The second time you came  
17 to work at Las Palmas, Tencha again hired you?

18 A. Yes. Jenny asked for work from the lady there at the  
19 place.

12:57:04

20 Q. You said "Jenny." Then you meant Fabiola?

21 A. Fabiola. Her name there at the cantina was Jenny.

22 Q. And you started working there in April of 2005 the  
23 second time; is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

12:57:22

25 Q. You worked there the second time until what -- until

1 when?

2 **A.** Until June. From April to June -- July, I'm sorry.  
3 July 16th was the last day I worked.

4 **Q.** How do you know the date of July 16th?

12:57:53

5 **A.** Because it was a Monday that the people from  
6 immigration and the FBI arrived in the apartment. We were  
7 arrested. I had a birthday while I was with immigration.  
8 That's why I know it was in July. Because my birthday is  
9 in July.

12:58:34

10 **Q.** At that point, did you have contact with the FBI?

11 **A.** No. It was immigration. They arrived there looking  
12 for El Gallo. They came looking for him. They asked if  
13 we knew where he was. They asked us if we had papers; and  
14 we said, "No." Then I don't know what to call it, but it  
15 was a detention place from ICE.

12:59:20

16 **Q.** Were you interviewed concerning your situation as  
17 being, for lack of a better word, enslaved?

18 **A.** Could you repeat, please.

19 **Q.** Were you interviewed by law enforcement about your  
20 situation?

12:59:43

21 THE COURT: What situation are you referring to?  
22 Spell it out, please.

23 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Were you interviewed by law  
24 enforcement about you being used as a prostitute?

12:59:59

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. At the beginning, did you tell the truth?

2 A. At the beginning, I didn't.

3 Q. Tell the members of the jury why not.

4 A. Because I was afraid he would hit me or that something

01:00:20

5 would happen to my family because he had promised --

6 because he had promised me it would only be for a short

7 time, that I wouldn't spend my life working in that place.

8 That's why I didn't speak at the beginning. I was afraid.

9 Q. How old were you at the time, ma'am?

01:00:52

10 A. 17 -- 18, I'm sorry.

11 Q. When you were working at Las Palmas, what age did you  
12 start working there?

13 A. 15.

14 Q. And during the time you worked there at Las Palmas,

01:01:19

15 who gave orders there? Who was in charge? Who was the  
16 owner?

17 MR. FAZEL: Objection to the form of the  
18 question. If he could break it down. It's compound.

19 THE COURT: It's compound.

01:01:29

20 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Okay. Who was the owner?

21 A. Do I have to say the name?

22 Q. Who was the owner of Las Palmas? Was Tencha the  
23 owner?

24 A. Ms. Tencha.

01:01:44

25 Q. Did she give the orders there?



1 **A.** When I arrived the first time, she was there. She  
2 would tell people what to charge; and she was there  
3 telling people what to do, collecting money for the  
4 tickets to go into the cantina. She was standing outside  
5 where there was a chair and a small hut or she was inside.

01:02:24

6 **Q.** Were there padrotes hanging around Las Palmas?

7 **A.** In the parking lots is where they were.

8 **Q.** Did you ever see --

9 THE COURT: What does that term mean, for the  
10 record? You used a Spanish term. What does that mean?

01:02:45

11 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) What does "padrotes" mean?

12 **A.** The men that were -- who had us working, prostituting  
13 ourselves.

14 **Q.** And you said those pimps were working in the parking  
15 lot or would hang around the parking lot?

01:03:04

16 **A.** No. They were working -- waiting for us in the  
17 parking lot until we came out so they could take us to the  
18 apartments where we lived.

19 **Q.** During the period of time that you worked there at Las  
20 Palmas those two times, based upon what you observed, did  
21 most people there who either worked or did business there,  
22 were they illegal aliens?

01:03:25

23 MR. FAZEL: Objection to speculation on the part  
24 of the witness.

01:03:38

25 THE COURT: Sustained. How much more do you have

1 of this witness?

2 MR. PEREZ: May I have a moment, Your Honor?

3 THE COURT: Yeah.

4 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

01:04:04

5 MR. PEREZ: I'll pass the witness, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, it's right at  
7 1:05. We'll take a break. Please be back ready to resume  
8 at 2:15. We'll see you at that time.

9 (Jury exited the courtroom at 1:04 p.m.)

01:04:13

10 (Recess from 1:04 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.)

11 THE MARSHAL: All rise.

12 (Jury entered courtroom at 2:20 p.m.)

13 THE COURT: Thank you. You can be seated. All  
14 right. Put our witness back on, please.

02:20:45

15 THE WITNESS: (Complying.)

16 THE COURT: Okay. Are we ready? Let's go.

17 MR. FAZEL: May I proceed, Your Honor?

18 THE COURT: Yeah.

19 MR. FAZEL: Thank you.

02:21:08

20 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 BY MR. FAZEL:

22 **Q.** Good afternoon, ma'am. My name is Ali Fazel. You and  
23 I have never met before, correct?

24 **A.** No.

02:21:20

25 **Q.** We have never met prior to your testimony today?

1 **A.** No.

2 **Q.** I have said this to most witnesses, and I'll tell you.

3 If at any time that you don't understand me or if I'm

4 going too fast, let me know; and I'll repeat myself.

02:21:38

5 Fair?

6 **A.** Okay.

7 **Q.** I want to just very, very quickly go through the

8 occurrences in Mexico. And then, I want to talk about the

9 United States. Okay?

02:21:51

10 **A.** Okay.

11 **Q.** In Mexico -- first of all, I want to make sure we're

12 clear your date of birth is July 23rd, 1987, correct?

13 **A.** July 23rd, 1987.

14 **Q.** And this has been the date of birth as you have told

02:22:09

15 everybody from the government, to ICE, to everybody?

16 **A.** Could you repeat, please? I didn't hear what you

17 said.

18 **Q.** I'd be happy to. Let me rephrase it. The date of

19 birth you just told us is the date of birth you have used

02:22:27

20 with law enforcement throughout this whole incident,

21 correct?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Now, in Mexico, you were approached by Mr. Jose Luis

24 Moreno Salazar; is that correct?

02:22:41

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. And Jose Luis Moreno Salazar is the one that through  
2 verbiage or through whatever means forced you into  
3 prostitution, correct?

4 A. Yes.

02:22:55

5 Q. Ms. Medeles sitting right here did not do that; is  
6 that correct?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Ms. Medeles did not force you into prostitution,  
9 correct?

02:23:04

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. It's correct to say that she did not force you  
12 into prostitution, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Now, in Mexico when you were with Mr. Salazar, I  
15 understand you felt like he was your boyfriend. At some  
16 point in time you thought he was your pimp. Either way,  
17 all the moneys you earned was given to Mr. Salazar,  
18 correct?

02:23:24

19 A. Yes.

02:23:36

20 Q. Ms. Medeles here had nothing to do with the money you  
21 earned, never got any of the money that you earned in  
22 Mexico, correct?

23 A. No.

24 Q. She had nothing to do with where you were taken, where  
25 you lived or what happened in Mexico, correct?

02:23:50

1 A. Where, please?

2 Q. Yes, ma'am. She had no -- she had nothing to do with  
3 where Mr. Salazar took you in Mexico, correct?

4 A. No.

02:24:09

5 Q. She had nothing to do with what Mr. Salazar asked you  
6 to do in Mexico, correct?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Nor did she have anything to do with Mr. Salazar's  
9 decision to bring you into the United States, correct?

02:24:25

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. When you say no, you are saying I'm correct?  
12 She had nothing to do with Mr. Salazar's decision to bring  
13 you into the United States?

14 A. No.

02:24:38

15 Q. It is a correct statement that she had --

16 THE COURT: You are going to have to get -- there  
17 you are saying it one more time. She is saying "no" and  
18 the answer ought to be "yes" or "correct." Do you see  
19 what I'm saying?

02:24:51

20 MR. FAZEL: I do. It's the translation in  
21 Spanish, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: No. No. We get that all the time.  
23 All the time.

02:24:57

24 MR. FAZEL: That's why I'm asking. Let me try it  
25 this way, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: "You didn't do that; is that  
2 correct?"

3 "No."

02:25:06

4 Okay. It should be "yes" or "correct," if that's the  
5 answer. I'm not going to say it again. In other words,  
6 maybe someone else reading the record will make that  
7 allowance.

8 MR. FAZEL: I understand.

9 THE COURT: Go on.

02:25:16

10 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) Let me ask it this way: It is true,  
11 is it not, that Ms. Medeles has nothing to do with or had  
12 nothing to do with Mr. Salazar's decision to bring you  
13 into the United States?

14 **A.** No.

02:25:36

15 **Q.** Did Ms. Medeles have anything to do with Mr. Salazar's  
16 decision to bring you into the United States?

17 **A.** No.

18 **Q.** Okay. All right. Finally. Thank you. Okay. That  
19 was a workout.

02:25:56

20 Now, once you arrived into the United States, let's  
21 talk about that. Okay?

22 **A.** Okay.

23 **Q.** You were taken into or -- excuse me. You were taken  
24 to an apartment by Mr. Salazar, correct?

02:26:11

25 **A.** Can you repeat the question?

1 Q. I'd be happy to. When you arrived in the United  
2 States, you were taken to an apartment by Mr. Salazar,  
3 correct?

4 A. Yes.

02:26:22

5 Q. Okay. Ms. Medeles did not have any -- let me say it  
6 this way. Ms. Medeles did not take you to an apartment,  
7 correct?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Ms. Medeles did not set you up in an apartment, true?

02:26:51

10 A. No.

11 Q. Ms. Medeles did set you up in an apartment?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. Now, when you arrived in the United States, you  
14 testified it was in November of 2013, correct?

02:27:25

15 A. When I what? 2003.

16 Q. So the first time you arrived in the United States, to  
17 be clear, was 2003, correct?

18 A. I arrived in 2003.

19 Q. Okay. Do you recall telling law enforcement -- okay.

02:27:58

20 Let me back up.

21 You have spoken to law enforcement on numerous  
22 occasions, correct?

23 A. The first time I came, no.

24 Q. But listen to my question. Maybe it was a bad

02:28:13

25 question. Before testifying today there has been a number

1 of times that you have spoken to law enforcement; is that  
2 correct?

3 **A.** Yes. When I was in front of immigration, yes, I  
4 talked to them to tell them what had happened --

02:28:33

5 **Q.** Okay.

6 **A.** -- to me.

7 **Q.** And before testifying today, you also spoke to law  
8 enforcement, correct?

9 **A.** I haven't spoken to them now.

02:28:43

10 **Q.** Have you spoken to the prosecutors in this courtroom,  
11 the two gentlemen in the front, prior to your testimony  
12 today?

13 **A.** No.

14 **Q.** Do you recall speaking to law enforcement when you  
15 were taken into custody?

02:28:57

16 **A.** When I was with immigration.

17 **Q.** Do you recall telling law enforcement that you arrived  
18 in the United States in 2005?

19 **A.** Yes, the second time I came.

02:29:19

20 **Q.** So you came to the United States once in 2003 and once  
21 in 2005?

22 **A.** I came in November of 2003, and I left in October of  
23 2004. And I went back to Mexico in October, and in April  
24 I came back to the United States.

02:29:52

25 **Q.** You failed to mention that the first time you talked



1 to law enforcement; is that correct? You told them  
2 both --

3 **A.** The first time I never spoke with the police.

02:30:10

4 **Q.** When you did speak to them finally, do you remember  
5 not telling them about that?

6 **A.** When I was here the second time, when the authorities  
7 came, the immigration authorities came to the apartment  
8 looking for El Gallo?

02:30:38

9 **Q.** Yes, ma'am. What I'm asking you is when you finally  
10 broke down and spoke to the government, the law  
11 enforcement, in speaking with them you only mentioned that  
12 you came to the United States one time; and that was in  
13 2005?

02:31:08

14 **A.** Because when I was with the authorities for that time  
15 in the immigration center, I didn't want to talk to them.  
16 They had said I had come before; and I said, "No. No."  
17 They said they had pictures of me, and I kept saying no.

02:31:33

18 **Q.** I understand. What I'm asking you: At some point in  
19 time then you decided to engage in conversations with  
20 them, correct?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** And when you did engage in conversations with them --

23 **A.** When they caught me the second time that I was here.

02:31:49

24 **Q.** And then, when you agreed to speak with them, you  
25 didn't tell them that you came into the country twice, did

1 you?

2 **A.** No. I didn't tell them because I was afraid of the  
3 way in which Jose Luis would react. I didn't want to say  
4 anything.

02:32:08

5 **Q.** You told them about Jose Luis. You told them about  
6 other things. You just failed to mention you came into  
7 the country twice?

8 **A.** When I started talking to them, yes, I did tell them,  
9 finally, that I had been here before and that I was here  
10 now prostituting myself.

02:32:32

11 **Q.** Let me move on. As part -- you are now living in the  
12 United States, correct?

13 **A.** With me what?

14 **Q.** You are now --

02:32:50

15 **A.** Can you repeat?

16 **Q.** You are now living in the United States, correct,  
17 currently?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** And you are working in the United States currently?

02:32:57

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** And through your cooperation with the government you  
22 are able to obtain a T-visa, correct?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** And the government helped you through that process,  
25 correct?

02:33:12

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And they obtained services for you, correct?

3 A. As a victim.

02:33:30

4 Q. And they also set you up with a lawyer or got you set  
5 up with a lawyer, correct, an immigration lawyer?

6 A. Yes. Based on the fact that I'm a victim.

7 Q. Okay. And when you did that, in obtaining the T-visa,  
8 you provided the immigration lawyer with an affidavit, a  
9 sworn statement, correct?

02:33:57

10 A. When I had that what kind of visa?

11 Q. When you were going through the process of obtaining  
12 your T-visa. Are you with me? When you were going  
13 through the process. Do you understand what I'm asking?

14 A. I don't understand.

02:34:22

15 Q. You have obtained a T-visa, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And actually right now you are a permanent resident,  
18 correct?

19 A. Yes.

02:34:31

20 Q. All right. Before you became a permanent resident, as  
21 a green cardholder, you had to get a T-visa first, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Part of that process to get the T-visa was that you  
24 gave an affidavit to the folks at immigration, correct?

02:34:51

25 A. Yes.

1 THE COURT: Go on.

2 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) And part of that -- and you sat with a  
3 lawyer, and you gave him your story as to what happened,  
4 correct?

02:35:04

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And he took it down, and you swore to it under oath,  
7 correct?

8 A. Of course.

02:35:31

9 Q. Do you remember testifying about you returning to your  
10 apartment and there was suitcases ready to go and you guys  
11 left to go back to Mexico the first time? Do you remember  
12 talking about that?

13 A. Yes. When the first time that I came in November of  
14 2003, and then I left in October of 2004.

02:36:00

15 Q. The reason you left is because Mr. Salazar wanted to  
16 go, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you remember telling law enforcement it's because  
19 he was bored sitting at home?

02:36:20

20 A. Yes. He wanted to go back to Mexico to have fun.

21 Q. Now, when you were here, was it true that you were  
22 able to keep some of the money that you made and send it  
23 back home to your mother?

02:36:57

24 A. Yes. \$3,000. When the police came to get us, there  
25 was \$3,000 in that apartment.

1 Q. Do you remember that you stated that at some point in  
2 time you were able to keep some of the money you were  
3 making and that you were sending it back to Mexico to your  
4 mother?

02:37:18

5 A. I was going to send it to Mexico. Fabiola realized  
6 what happened because she saw me going in and out working  
7 with men; and so, I had to put the money back in.

02:37:55

8 Q. I'm going to talk about Las Palmas real quick with  
9 you. Okay. It was Mr. Salazar that took you there,  
10 correct?

11 A. Fabiola was the one that asked for work for me.

12 Q. But it was Mr. Salazar's idea to take you there,  
13 correct?

14 A. Yes. They drove us to that place.

02:38:15

15 Q. My point being that Mr. Salazar is the one that made  
16 sure that's where he wanted you to go, correct?

17 A. I don't know.

18 Q. Fine. And he or somebody arranged that you were  
19 picked up, taken there and brought back home, correct?

02:38:37

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. It's also correct that when you testified you said  
22 that the pimps would sit outside of Las Palmas. Do you  
23 remember talking about that?

02:39:00

24 A. Yes. Because I told you when we finished they were  
25 waiting for us in the parking lot.

1 Q. That's exactly my point. They would just be waiting  
2 for you to leave, correct?

3 A. So that we would be taken to the apartment.

02:39:19

4 Q. All right. Now, when you were working at Las Palmas  
5 there were no girls there that lived at Las Palmas, was  
6 there?

7 A. Can you repeat, please?

8 Q. Sure. There were no girls that lived upstairs at Las  
9 Palmas, was there?

02:39:39

10 A. I don't understand.

11 THE COURT: Say it again. I mean, did any girls  
12 live upstairs at Las Palmas full-time? Yes or no?

13 THE WITNESS: No.

14 MR. FAZEL: Thank you, Judge.

02:39:59

15 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) I have -- well, as far as the money is  
16 concerned, let's just go over that very, very briefly if  
17 you don't mind. You had the option of charging your  
18 clients or the people that you engaged in prostitution  
19 with any amount of money that you wanted, correct?

02:40:35

20 A. What Jose Luis told me.

21 Q. Correct. It wasn't Ms. Medeles that told you what to  
22 charge? It was your pimp that told you what to charge?

23 A. It is just that -- the costs of the room where you  
24 were engaged in prostitution --

02:40:55

25 THE COURT: No. Ask the question again. A clear

1 question. Ask it again.

2 MR. FAZEL: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

3 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) What I'm asking you is: The fee that  
4 you charged the clients in order to engage in sex with  
5 them was set by your pimp, correct?

02:41:06

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. The -- Las Palmas charged you a set standard fee for  
8 using the room, condoms?

9 A. Yes, \$15.

02:41:34

10 Q. Do you remember earlier when we discussed this  
11 affidavit that you put together with your lawyer?

12 A. Would you repeat or explain better?

13 Q. Yes, of course. Do you remember that we talked about  
14 the fact that you put an affidavit together for the lawyer  
15 in immigration?

02:41:56

16 A. Yes. I told him what had happened to me.

17 Q. And you had an opportunity to look at that affidavit,  
18 correct?

19 A. Yes.

02:42:15

20 Q. There is no mention of Las Palmas at all in that  
21 affidavit, is there?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you -- can you read -- I'm sorry. Can you read  
24 Spanish?

02:42:53

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Here is your affidavit in Spanish. Can you review it  
2 very quickly and tell me where it talks about Las Palmas?

3 THE COURT: Does it anywhere, as far as you are  
4 concerned?

02:43:04

5 MR. FAZEL: No, sir.

6 THE COURT: Nothing?

7 MR. FAZEL: No, sir.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

02:44:02

10 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) It doesn't mention Las Palmas at all,  
11 does it?

12 A. No, I don't see any.

13 MR. FAZEL: Thank you, Your Honor. I pass the  
14 witness.

02:44:42

15 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

16 BY MR. PEREZ:

17 Q. Ma'am, you mentioned that on cross-examination --

18 THE COURT: Have you got a microphone?

19 MR. PEREZ: I do not, Your Honor.

02:44:55

20 MR. FAZEL: I think he was talking about this  
21 one.

22 Q. (By Mr. Perez) When Mr. Fazel over there was asking  
23 questions --

24 THE COURT: Is that on? You need to press it and  
25 hold it.

02:45:25



1 MR. PEREZ: There it is.

2 THE COURT: Have you got it now?

3 MR. PEREZ: I think so, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: I think so, too. Go on.

5 | MR. PEREZ: All right.

6 Q. (By Mr. Perez) When the defense attorney was asking  
7 you questions, he asked you if you had spoken to the  
8 prosecutors. Okay. And I think you said no. Let me  
9 explain to you. I'm a prosecutor. You've spoken to me

10 | about the case before, have you not?

11 | **A.** Yes.

12 Q. So when you told him that you hadn't spoken to the  
13 prosecutor, you didn't know he was talking about me,  
14 right?

15 | **A.** No. Sorry.

16 Q. In fact, when I have interviewed you before you  
17 testified here today, Mr. Edwin behind me was with me,  
18 right?

19 | **A.** Yes.

20 Q. And I have spoken to you on -- tell the members of the  
21 jury how many times I have spoken to you before you  
22 testified here today.

23 | **A.** From the first time until now, some three times.

24 **Q.** Okay. So you and I have spoken about this case?

25 | **A.** Yes.

1 Q. All right. Now, he also asked you whether the pimps  
2 hung around the parking lot; and I think something must  
3 have been lost in translation. I'm going to ask it again.  
4 Okay?

02:46:45

5 A. Okay.

6 Q. Now, you mentioned that you worked at Las Palmas  
7 between 2:00 and 5:00?

8 A. Yes.

02:46:56

9 Q. And I think you also said there was a short period of  
10 time between 2:00 and 5:00 when you worked at Las Palmas.  
11 From 2:00 to 5:00 is three hours.

02:47:19

12 Let me ask you this question: With Jose Luis and the  
13 other pimps, would they leave when they dropped you off at  
14 2:00; or would they stay and hang around the parking lot  
15 at Las Palmas between 2:00 and 5:00?

16 A. He used to tell me that he would wait for me outside.  
17 I don't know if he left or not.

02:47:40

18 Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Defense Attorney also asked you if it  
19 was up to you or Jose Luis how much you charged a client  
20 there at Las Palmas. You generally said -- I think you  
21 said you charged \$50, right?

22 A. It was \$65. \$50 for me and \$15 for the condom.

23 Q. That money would go to the Las Palmas establishment,  
24 right?

02:48:03

25 MR. FAZEL: Objection to "that money." Could you

1 be more specific?

2 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) The \$15.

3 **A.** The \$15.

4 **Q.** Now, he also asked you about your age. Okay.

02:48:16

5 **A.** Yes.

6 MR. PEREZ: May I approach the witness -- I mean,  
7 may I approach Mr. Defense Attorney, Your Honor?

8 THE COURT: Yes. That's all right with me.

02:48:33

9 By the way, in most federal courts you are required to  
10 ask may I approach a witness or may I move around the  
11 courtroom. I have never had any such rule, but it's  
12 something ingrained in lawyers to ask.

13 MR. PEREZ: Especially in this court, Your Honor.  
14 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

02:49:05

15 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) I show you what's been identified as  
16 Government Exhibit Number 30 and just tell me whether you  
17 are familiar with Government's Exhibit Number 30, please.

18 THE COURT: No. The question was: Are you  
19 familiar with it? Yes or no, are you familiar with it?

02:49:32

20 Have you seen it before? Do you know what it is? Yes or  
21 no?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes. It's my birth certificate.

23 THE COURT: Well, just -- okay. See, if -- if  
24 it's a yes or no, it gives the other side an opportunity

02:49:46

25 to object on other grounds. If she recognizes it, then

2 And then, before they answer it, there can be an  
3 objection. Anyhow, she has already answered.

4 Q. (By Mr. Perez) I know some of it is redacted, but  
5 what is it?

7 **Q.** And whose birth certificate? I know some of it is  
8 redacted.

9 MR. FAZEL: Objection. She is testifying from  
0 matters not in evidence.

12 MR. FAZEL: Objection. Testifying over a  
13 document not in evidence.

14 MR. PEREZ: I offer into evidence Government  
15 Exhibit 30, Your Honor, which she has identified as her  
16 birth certificate which has been redacted for safety  
17 reasons, Your Honor.

19 MR. FAZEL: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Why?

23 THE COURT: Hold it. Make sure they can hear  
24 you. You can speak louder.

25 MR. FAZEL: Yes, sir. It's a foreign document.

1 That witness is not a proper witness to put that document  
2 through. It's not sealed. There is an exception.

3 THE COURT: What rule? I'm looking for an  
4 exception. What rule?

02:51:00

5 MR. FAZEL: 803.

6 THE COURT: It's 80-something.

7 MR. FAZEL: It has to have a seal.

8 THE COURT: There it is. Public record?

9 MR. FAZEL: Yes.

02:51:17

10 THE COURT: Oh, vital statistics. 803(9) here it  
11 is. I guess it's 803(8) and (9).

12 MR. FAZEL: I think there is a foreign one, too,  
13 Your Honor.

02:51:41

14 THE COURT: 803(9) is right on, birth records,  
15 exceptions to the hearsay rule.

16 MR. FAZEL: Well, it doesn't even apply. I don't  
17 think it fits that description; but I think there is a  
18 government -- a foreign government exception, as well.

19 THE COURT: A foreign government?

02:52:02

20 MR. FAZEL: Documents from a foreign country,  
21 yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: All right. Where is it?

23 MR. FAZEL: I'm looking, but I would say it  
24 doesn't even fit that one because it's not certified.

02:52:11

25 THE COURT: Well, but then again, if you look at

02:52:29

02:52:43

02:52:54

02:53:09

02:53:27

1 THE COURT: It's got a seal at the lower,  
2 right-hand corner. All right. Now that we have it in,  
3 what are we going to do with it?

02:53:43

4 MR. PEREZ: Can we publish it to the jury, Your  
5 Honor?

6 THE COURT: Well, put it on the machine. Do we  
7 have it on your computer?

8 MR. PEREZ: Yes, sir. P-30. There it is, Your  
9 Honor.

02:53:50

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Just to make it clear, that's your  
12 birth certificate. I know some of it has been redacted.

13 THE COURT: We are there already. Keep moving,  
14 please.

02:54:01

15 Q. (By Mr. Perez) This is your date of birth, July 23rd,  
16 1987; is that correct?

17 A. '87.

18 Q. All right. Now, let me ask you another question.  
19 I'll go through these very quickly. Okay. P-1, do you  
20 recognize P-1? What is P-1, please?

02:54:19

21 A. Las Palmas.

22 Q. And is Las Palmas the place where Tencha hired you to  
23 work as a prostitute?

24 A. Yes.

02:54:33

25 Q. P-15, do you recognize the person on P-15?





02:55:53

02:56:17

02:56:50

02:57:08

02:57:20

5 Q. And all these women who worked at Las Palmas as

1 prostitutes, they were also illegal; is that right?

2 MR. FAZEL: Objection, speculation.

3 Q. (By Mr. Perez) If you know.

4 A. Yes. Yes. Yes.

02:57:37

5 Q. When you say "Si'" three times, that means that the  
6 people, as far as you could tell, who worked as  
7 prostitutes at Las Palmas were illegal, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. PEREZ: Pass the witness, Your Honor.

02:57:52

10 MR. FAZEL: No questions.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. You may step down. You  
12 are excused. You are free to leave.

13 Call your next witness.

14 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXX, first name, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,  
15 XXXXX, XXX, as in Victor, XXXXX.

02:58:08

16 THE COURT: Last name X.

17 MR. PEREZ: X as in Victor.

18 THE COURT: XXX --

19 MR. PEREZ: -- XXXXX. She has not been sworn,  
20 Your Honor.

02:58:34

21 THE COURT: She has not been sworn. XXXXXXX  
22 XXXXX. She needs to take -- can you hear?

23 THE INTERPRETER: She said yes.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

02:58:58

25 CASE MANAGER: Ma'am, raise your right hand.

1 THE WITNESS: (Complying.)

2 (Witness sworn by the case manager through the  
3 interpreter.)

4 **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,**

5 having been first duly sworn, testified through the  
6 interpreter as follows:

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

8 BY MR. PEREZ:

02:59:15 9 **Q.** Please introduce yourself to the Court and the members  
10 of the jury, please, ma'am.

11 **A.** My name is XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

12 **Q.** Were you born in Mexico, ma'am?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** And what is your date of birth?

02:59:41 15 **A.** The month is the 11th, the 8th of '88.

16 **Q.** What did you say, again, please, just to make sure?

17 **A.** The month 11, the 8th day of '88.

18 **Q.** And so now you are, what, 26 years old?

19 **A.** Yes.

03:00:06 20 **Q.** I'm going to try to go as briefly as I can into what  
21 happened to you in Mexico before you entered the United  
22 States. Okay?

23 **A.** Yes.

03:00:23 24 **Q.** Did you meet a person in Mexico when you were 14 or  
25 15 years old?

1 **A.** That is correct.

2 **Q.** Who did you meet?

3 **A.** Solomon Guzman Lila.

4 **Q.** Okay. And do you know how old he was at the time he  
03:00:39 5 met you?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** How old was he?

8 **A.** 19.

9 **Q.** At the time when you met him did you then become  
03:00:48 10 boyfriend and girlfriend?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** And at some point he convinced you or forced you into  
13 prostitution; is that correct?

14 **A.** Yes.

03:01:03 15 **Q.** How long after you met him did he approach you about  
16 becoming a prostitute for him?

17 **A.** In, like, about approximately six months.

18 **Q.** Do you come from a poor background?

19 **A.** Yes.

03:01:32 20 **Q.** How many brothers and sisters do you have?

21 **A.** We are seven.

22 **Q.** And where are you originally from?

23 **A.** Cardenas Tabasco, Mexico.

24 **Q.** Is that where you met this fellow?

03:01:53 25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. Where did you meet him there in Tabasco?

2 A. In Cardenas.

3 Q. Where is that?

4 A. It's like a municipality in Mexico.

03:02:15

5 Q. Did you move in with him? Did you move into his house  
6 with him or --

7 A. Around the second or the third day I went with him.

8 Q. And where did you go with him?

9 A. He took me to Puebla.

03:02:41

10 Q. How far is Puebla from where you met him?

11 A. About five hours.

12 Q. Did you ask for permission from your mom to do this?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Why did you take off with him after about two or three  
15 days of meeting him?

03:03:05

16 A. I had a lot of problems at my home.

17 Q. Was he nice to you initially?

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Was he nice to you initially?

03:03:53

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And at some point did he turn on you and become mean  
22 to you? You have got to answer up, please, ma'am.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How long after you met him did he start being mean to  
25 you?

03:04:11

1 A. When he started to prostitute me.

2 Q. How did he convince you to prostitute yourself?

3 A. First of all, with beautiful things, that he couldn't  
4 work here, that it was very hard for him.

03:04:43

5 Q. "Work here" being in Mexico; is that right?

6 A. No. Because he never prostituted me in Mexico. After  
7 he -- after we passed over.

8 Q. Okay. Did he approach you about prostituting yourself  
9 while you were in Mexico?

03:05:10

10 A. Never.

11 Q. So he was very nice to you while you were in Mexico?

12 A. (Nodding head up and down.)

13 Q. At what time or when did you all cross into the United  
14 States?

03:05:17

15 A. (Speaking in Spanish.)

16 Q. Do you know what year you came to the United States?

17 A. Yes, in 2003.

18 Q. Do you know how old you were at the time you crossed  
19 into the United States?

03:05:46

20 A. I was going to be 16 years old.

21 Q. When you arrived in the United States, did you go to  
22 Houston?

23 A. No. We went to Florida.

24 Q. So you went from Mexico to Florida?

03:06:09

25 A. Yes. We were here only, like, two days and then went

1 on to Florida.

2 **Q.** So you did come to Houston at the very beginning and  
3 then stayed two days and then you went to Florida?

4 **A.** Yes.

03:06:27

5 **Q.** Did Solomon go with you to Florida?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** And up until that point had he prostituted you?

8 **A.** No.

03:06:44

9 **Q.** You went to -- you arrived in Florida. How long after  
10 you arrived in Florida did you engage in prostitution for  
11 him?

12 **A.** We were there, like, about three months.

13 **Q.** And again, up until that point you had not prostituted  
14 yourself; is that correct?

03:07:09

15 **A.** Yes. It was in Florida that he began to prostitute  
16 me.

17 **Q.** What method did he use to convince you to become a  
18 prostitute in Florida?

03:07:43

19 **A.** He told me that I had to start doing that for him  
20 because he didn't have a job, how were we going to eat and  
21 where were we going to live?

22 **Q.** Were you and he by yourselves at that time?

23 **A.** (Speaking in Spanish.)

24 **Q.** Was it just you and him when you went to Florida?

03:08:07

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. When you arrived in Florida, did you meet up with  
2 other people?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who did you meet up with in Florida?

03:08:20

5 A. With Solomon's family.

6 Q. Solomon's family was in Florida?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You arrive in Florida. He is trying to convince you  
9 to become a prostitute. Do you become a prostitute?

03:08:38

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How long were you a prostitute in Florida?

12 A. About three, three or four months.

13 Q. Did he physically hurt you while you were in Florida?

14 A. Yes.

03:09:01

15 Q. Tell the members of the jury what he would do to you  
16 in Florida.

17 A. It was when I wouldn't give him all of the full amount  
18 of the money; and then, he would do it physically and  
19 verbally.

03:09:36

20 Q. And physically what would he do to you?

21 A. He would hit me with his hand or he would take  
22 something that was sharp and punch me with it, like a  
23 pencil and something sharp like that.

03:10:08

24 Q. How -- I think you already told me this, but how long  
25 were you a prostitute for him in Florida?



1 A. About three months.

2 Q. And after those three months what happened? Where did  
3 you go next?

4 A. We came to Houston.

03:10:24

5 Q. And how long were you in Houston when you arrived in  
6 Houston -- after you arrived in Houston?

7 A. Well, he would bring me with him during that time when  
8 that season is over, like when oranges are picked. He  
9 picked oranges in Florida.

03:11:06

10 Q. And then he would come to Houston?

11 A. Pardon?

12 Q. Then you would come to Houston?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And how long would you stay in Houston?

03:11:35

15 A. When it would turn cold here, we would -- we would --  
16 well, for most of the rest of the time we remained here in  
17 Houston working.

18 Q. So did you at some point go from Florida to Houston  
19 and back to Florida and then back to Houston? Is that  
20 what you are saying?

03:11:59

21 A. Yes. But I don't remember too well whether we  
22 returned or not.

23 Q. Returned where?

24 A. Florida.

03:12:12

25 Q. But you did come to Houston and then stayed here?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. When you came to Houston, did you work as a  
3 prostitute, as well?

4 A. Yes.

03:12:24

5 Q. Where did you work as a prostitute when you came to  
6 Houston?

7 A. He put me first into Las Gueras.

8 Q. Was that a brothel?

9 A. Yes. It was a cantina.

03:12:48

10 Q. Where there was prostitution?

11 A. Yes. And would prostitute me.

12 Q. How long did you work at Las Gueras?

13 A. I worked about a year.

14 Q. And then after Las Gueras, where did you work?

03:13:23

15 A. At Maria Bonitas. But then after I was working in one  
16 place and I would get out, he would take me over to  
17 another place, Las Palmas.

18 Q. Okay. And would you work at Las Palmas on the  
19 weekends?

03:13:39

20 A. The weekends.

21 Q. From what time to what time?

22 A. I would leave, get off from Las Gueras at about 2:00.  
23 And then, the time it took to travel to Las Palmas, I  
24 would start in.

03:14:08

25 Q. How long did you work at Las Palmas on the weekends?

1 **A.** Since I started at Las Gueras, about one year.

2 **Q.** So a total number -- the total time that you worked at  
3 Las Palmas was how long?

4 **A.** About -- about a year.

03:14:38

5 **Q.** And all on the weekends?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** Who hired you at Las Palmas?

8 **A.** When we would do our work, my pimp told me that we  
9 would have to go and ask for work from a woman by the name  
10 of Tencha.

03:15:12

11 **Q.** Did you go to Las Palmas to ask for work from Tencha?

12 **A.** Yes. We would simply arrive. And we would tell her  
13 that we wanted to work there on weekends. And she would  
14 say, "All right. Okay."

03:15:38

15 **Q.** Is Tencha in the courtroom here today?

16 **A.** Can I see all over?

17 **Q.** Go ahead and stand up.

18 **A.** I don't see her.

19 **Q.** You can stand up if you want. Well, let me ask you

03:16:01

20 this -- you don't have to look out. You can look in here,  
21 as well, if you want to.

22 **MR. FAZEL:** Judge, I object to that.

23 **THE WITNESS:** Si'.

24 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) You tell me. Okay. Is she in the  
25 courtroom?

03:16:27

1 **A.** Yes. She is the one with the white hair. I hadn't  
2 recognized her because of the white hair.

3 **Q.** What is different from her hair?

4 **A.** When I first met her, she had something like reddish.

03:16:56

5 **Q.** Okay. Let me ask you this: I'm going to show you a  
6 picture of Tencha in Government Exhibit Number B. Is that  
7 closer to the way she looked at the time you knew her?

8 **A.** Yes.

03:17:09

9 **Q.** Is she different in that picture than the way she  
10 stands here?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** All right.

03:17:16

13 **MR. PEREZ:** Your Honor, may the record reflect  
14 the witness has identified the defendant, Tencha, in this  
15 case, Your Honor?

16 **THE COURT:** The record will so reflect.

17 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) You mentioned that your pimp would  
18 beat you physically; is that correct? Do you have any  
19 scars from the beatings that you took?

03:17:40

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** Where are you -- you don't have to show them to the  
22 jury. Where are those scars?

23 **A.** I have one right here and on my arms.

03:17:54

24 **Q.** You have got your shirt covering them. I'm not going  
25 to ask you to do that. But you do have scars on your

1 arms?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** Did Tencha have any rules there, as far as you know,  
4 when you worked there as a prostitute at the Las Palmas?

03:18:15

5 **A.** Yes.

6 **Q.** Tell the members of the jury what those rules were,  
7 please.

8 **A.** When we first started working there, she would tell us  
9 about padrotes. I don't know why. But she would say

03:18:48

10 about los padrotes. That they didn't have to come over  
11 and look for fights or anything like that. That she  
12 didn't want any problems.

13 **Q.** So she knew the girls who worked there at Las Palmas  
14 had pimps; is that right?

03:19:10

15 **A.** I think so because she used to say "padrotes."

16 MR. MAGLIOLO: I couldn't quite hear that, Your  
17 Honor.

18 THE COURT: She needs -- what was the -- do you  
19 want the question read back?

03:19:26

20 MR. MAGLIOLO: Just the answer. I'm just having  
21 a little trouble hearing it.

22 THE INTERPRETER: I think, yes, because she used  
23 to say "padrotes."

24 THE COURT: Have you got the microphone?

03:19:38

25 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, sir.

1 THE COURT: Move it up a little bit. Move it up  
2 a little bit.

3 MR. MAGLIOLO: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: That will do it.

03:19:48

5 THE INTERPRETER: If I can get it hooked on here.  
6 Okay.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Flip it around. It's flopped  
8 around. There you go. Flatten it out.

9 THE INTERPRETER: Okay.

03:20:00

10 THE COURT: There you go. Let's see if that  
11 helps.

12 MR. MAGLIOLO: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Was Tencha the owner of Las Palmas?

14 **A.** Yes. That's what Solomon had told me.

03:20:11

15 **Q.** When you started working there did you see Tencha  
16 there at Las Palmas?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** And what you observed from her at Las Palmas, did that  
19 show you that she, in fact, was the owner of Las Palmas?

03:20:23

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** Did Tencha ever spend any time in the prostitution  
22 rooms?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** Explain to the members of the jury what she would do  
25 in the prostitution room area.

03:20:38

03:21:24

1 **A.** She would, like, go in to check when I would go  
2 upstairs to the rooms with the clients. And sometimes she  
3 would go to the door that had a lock on it and she would  
4 open the lock and it opened to go up. And I always saw  
5 her at the bar. You see, there are two places. There are  
6 two cantinas together.

03:21:50

7 **Q.** And she would be at the bar in which cantina?

8 **A.** Sometimes, because the other cantina was different to  
9 the other.

10 **Q.** Was she the owner of both cantinas? Is that what you  
11 are telling the members of the jury?

12 **A.** Yes. Because I was told that by my -- by Solomon, and  
13 all the other girls told me that she was the owner.

03:22:18

14 **Q.** How much did you have to pay Las Palmas for the use of  
15 the rooms and the condoms?

16 **A.** We would charge \$65, but upstairs we would be charged  
17 \$5 for the condom and \$10 for the room. The rest we kept  
18 to ourselves.

03:22:46

19 **Q.** What would you do with the money that you kept to  
20 yourself?

21 **A.** I gave it to my padrote.

22 **Q.** Then did you ever see Tencha actually charging herself  
23 for the room and the condoms? Did you actually see Tencha  
24 herself charge for the room and the condoms?

03:23:10

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. You hesitated. Can you explain to the members of the  
2 jury why you hesitated a little bit.

3 A. It is that she also charged for the other place  
4 because she would charge -- when we would finish in one  
03:23:37 5 place and go to the other, to the other one, she would  
6 charge us for going in there.

7 Q. I mean, that's what I'm asking you. She would  
8 personally take the money; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

03:23:49 10 Q. I'm going to show you P-1. Do you recognize what is  
11 depicted on P-1?

12 A. That's the cantina where I used to work at.

13 Q. Okay. How about -- I'll just do this again. P-30, is  
14 that Tencha, the one you identified earlier?

03:24:43 15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How about P-31? Do you recognize that person on P-31?

17 A. That man, when Solomon would go to take me, he would  
18 be standing there in the parking lot. He would park the  
19 cars.

03:25:11 20 Q. Do you recognize this person on Government Exhibit B,  
21 the person identified as Pantera? This fellow here, who  
22 is he?

23 A. He was Solomon's friend.

24 Q. And how do you know he was Solomon's friend?

03:25:44 25 A. Because he used to live near where Solomon had me. It



1 was a house in the front and then a small house in the  
2 back, and he lived in some apartments that were to the  
3 back.

4 **Q.** Was he a pimp?

03:26:16

5 **A.** Yes.

6 MR. PEREZ: May I conference with the attorney?  
7 You already told me I could. I'm sorry.

8 MR. FAZEL: Your Honor, I have no objections to  
9 this certified copy of the birth certificate.

03:26:49

10 THE COURT: Okay. What exhibit number?

11 MR. PEREZ: P-31. I'm sorry. 31.

12 THE COURT: Under the prior ruling, we assume now  
13 it's in. No objection. Just keep going.

14 MR. FAZEL: Yes, sir.

03:27:00

15 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) I know this has been redacted for  
16 security reasons. Okay. Do you recognize Government  
17 Exhibit Number 31?

18 **A.** No.

19 **Q.** No. Okay. I will get the one that is unredacted and  
20 show it to you at a later time. Okay. When I say  
21 redacted, it's whited out.

03:27:16

22 **A.** Okay.

23 **Q.** Okay.

24 MR. PEREZ: May I have a moment, Your Honor?

03:27:56

25 THE COURT: Yes.

1 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

2 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Just to be clear, ma'am, how old were  
3 you when you worked at Las Palmas?

4 **A.** 16 years old.

03:28:10

5 **Q.** And were there other minors working there at Las  
6 Palmas when you worked there?

7 MR. FAZEL: Objection, speculation.

8 THE COURT: If you know.

9 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) If you know.

03:28:21

10 **A.** I saw all of them as being young; but I didn't speak  
11 with any of them, with none of them.

12 **Q.** Why didn't you speak to any of them, ma'am?

13 **A.** Because Solomon said not to because there was a loss  
14 of money if I started talking to them.

03:28:52

15 **Q.** Did Solomon have somebody watching you while you were  
16 there at Las Palmas?

17 **A.** That's what I didn't know.

18 **Q.** He could have?

19 **A.** I never found out.

03:29:09

20 **Q.** Let me ask you this: If you did something Solomon  
21 told you not to do, would you pay the consequences?

22 **A.** No. No. No. Because I always behaved well.

23 **Q.** And when you say you behaved well, what do you mean  
24 that you behaved well?

03:29:53

25 **A.** Because he had prohibited my doing any drinking.

1 Also, in the rooms, strictly just to the room and there;  
2 and if I was going to be longer in a room with a client, I  
3 had to take more money from the client.

03:30:20

4 **Q.** Let me ask you this: So you were pretty punctual in  
5 working for him as far as following his orders; is that  
6 right?

7 **A.** Yes.

03:30:36

8 **Q.** How much money would you make, say, Saturday night at  
9 Las Palmas from 2:00 in the morning until 5:00 in the  
10 morning on a typical Saturday night?

11 **A.** It was \$1,500.

12 **Q.** On one Saturday night?

13 **A.** Yes.

03:30:55

14 **Q.** How many men would you service from 2:00 in the  
15 morning until 5:00 in the morning on Saturday night at Las  
16 Palmas?

17 **A.** If it was fifty, it would have to be 100, 150 men so I  
18 could make it.

03:31:24

19 **Q.** Just on one night, Saturday night, from 2:00 in the  
20 morning until 5:00 in the morning?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** How long would you spend with these men for each sex  
23 act?

24 **A.** 15 minutes.

03:31:39

25 **Q.** And then you had already come from another location.

1 How many men would you service at the other location?

2 **A.** At the other place also the same.

3 **Q.** Did this happen on Friday night as well at Las Palmas?

4 **A.** Yes.

03:32:08

5 **Q.** Sunday night as well at Las Palmas?

6 **A.** (Nodding head up and down.)

7 THE COURT: Let the record reflect the witness is  
8 shaking her head affirmatively. It has to get in the  
9 record.

03:32:21

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Were -- as far as you could tell, if  
13 you know, the women who worked there at Las Palmas -- I  
14 might have asked you this already. Okay -- were they  
15 legally or illegally in the country?

03:32:38

16 **A.** No. Because a majority of us were Mexicans.

17 **Q.** The majority were Mexicans without papers?

18 MR. FAZEL: Objection to that question being  
19 speculation.

03:32:59

20 MR. PEREZ: If you know.

21 THE COURT: If she knows.

22 **A.** No, I don't know.

23 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) But you certainly were there without  
24 papers. You were there illegally, right?

03:33:11

25 **A.** Yes.

1 MR. MAGLIOLO: If we could, might we just have a  
2 moment, Your Honor.

3 (Sotto voce with counsel.)

03:33:31

4 MR. PEREZ: I pass the witness, Your Honor,  
5 conditioned upon getting the original of the birth  
6 certificate we talked about earlier, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: I have it in evidence as a copy, all  
8 right, with a seal on it; but if you want to, you may  
9 substitute it out.

03:33:44

10 MR. PEREZ: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: At which time we'll see if there is  
12 any objection to withdrawing the other and putting the  
13 original in.

14 MR. PEREZ: Okay.

03:33:53

15 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, I think it  
16 would be a good time to take a break. It's 3:35. We'll  
17 take a 15-minute break. See you back in 15 minutes.

18 THE MARSHAL: All rise for the jury.

19 (Jury exited courtroom at 3:35 p.m.)

03:38:00

20 (Recess from 3:35 p.m. to 3:57 p.m.)

21 THE COURT: Let's call the jury in, please.

22 THE MARSHAL: Yes, sir.

23 MR. MAGLIOLO: Your Honor, might I display the  
24 first board? We're five people into it. That's the  
25 purpose is for the jury. Just the one board.

03:57:50

1 THE COURT: I'm saying just don't block everybody  
2 in the back indefinitely. Okay.

3 MR. MAGLIOLO: Yes, Your Honor.

4 (Jury entered courtroom at 3:58 p.m.)

03:58:18

5 THE COURT: Thank you. You can be seated. All  
6 right. May we have our witness back, please?

7 THE WITNESS: (Witness taking stand.)

8 MR. FAZEL: May I proceed, Your Honor?

9 THE COURT: Yes. Go right ahead. Sure.

03:59:53

10 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

11 BY MR. FAZEL:

12 Q. Ms. XXXXX, can you hear me?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I have a few questions for you. I wanted to start to  
15 make sure that we are clear on the timeline a little bit.  
16 I was a little confused. It's my understanding that you  
17 came to the United States in 2003, December of that year,  
18 correct?

04:00:05

19 A. Yes.

04:00:24

20 Q. And then from there you went to Florida, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you spent about three years in Florida?

23 A. Three years, no.

24 Q. How long did you live in the state of Florida?

04:00:40

25 A. Three months.

1 Q. Okay. Then you came back here to Houston?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And I know sometimes interpreters go back and forth.

4 So if you don't understand something, let me know; and

04:00:59

5 I'll repeat myself. Okay?

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Now, you have met with the folks here on this table;  
8 and it doesn't matter which one. You met with them prior  
9 to testifying today, correct?

04:01:14

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And do you remember them taking notes when you were  
12 talking to them?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you remember telling them that you came back to  
15 Houston approximately 2006 or 2007?

04:01:27

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So you can see my confusion if you came to the United  
18 States in 2003, went to Florida and didn't come back to  
19 Houston until 2006, you were actually in Florida for three  
20 years, right?

04:01:52

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So when you came back to Houston, you were 18 years  
23 old, correct?

24 A. Yes.

04:02:06

25 Q. All right. Just very briefly -- I don't want to do

1 what the prosecutor did and talk about all that stuff. I  
2 just want to touch on it just briefly. When you were with  
3 your pimp, Mr. Solomon, all the moneys that you obtained  
4 from what you were doing, you did not keep? They were  
5 going directly to him, correct?

04:02:33

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** So when you came to the United States and you went to  
8 Florida, you were under his control, correct?

9 **A.** Yes.

04:02:47

10 **Q.** You were not under the control of Ms. Medeles over  
11 here?

12 **A.** No.

13 **Q.** Mr. Solomon told you what to do?

14 **A.** Yes.

04:03:00

15 **Q.** Where to go?

16 **A.** Yes.

17 **Q.** And the other awful things that you have already  
18 talked to the prosecutor about?

19 **A.** Yes.

04:03:10

20 **Q.** Ms. Medeles never hit you or struck you or anything  
21 like that -- struck you? Excuse me.

22 **A.** No. May I say something else?

23 **Q.** If you can let me do it in question and answer, it  
24 will just go faster, please. Also, I want to talk to you

04:03:32

25 real briefly about --



1 THE COURT: Slow down. You are speeding up. We  
2 have an interpreter. Go on.

3 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) Sorry. I wanted to talk to you  
4 briefly on a side note. Las Palmas, did they have armed  
04:03:45 5 guards?

6 A. Can you repeat, please?

7 Q. Did it have armed guards?

8 A. No. Security.

9 Q. Security just to make sure that there is no fights and  
04:04:03 10 everybody behaved well?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. There were nobody -- in your time at Las Palmas you  
13 never saw any of the women there living on the second  
14 floor, did you?

04:04:24 15 A. No.

16 Q. Nobody was locked up on the second floor, correct?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Now, when you first came into the courtroom you had a  
19 bit of a hard time identifying Ms. Medeles right over  
04:04:52 20 here. Do you remember in your conversation with the  
21 government you actually didn't remember her name?

22 A. Sorry. Could you repeat the question?

23 Q. Sure. When you had met previously with the government  
24 and you were speaking about some of the matters that you  
04:05:17 25 spoke about today, isn't it true that you could not

1 remember the name of Ms. Medeles, Tencha? You didn't  
2 remember her name?

3 **A.** No, because they always called her Tencha.

4 **Q.** Yes, ma'am. However, it appears that you just said  
5 unknown female to the government?

6 **A.** The workers called her Tencha. They said her name was  
7 Tencha.

8 **Q.** So if the report indicates otherwise, I guess the  
9 report is wrong or you are wrong, huh?

10 **A.** (No response.)

11 **Q.** I'll move on.

12 The time frame that you were in Houston working at, I  
13 think it was Las Gueras was the name of it, do you  
14 remember that?

15 **A.** Yes.

16 **Q.** That had nothing to do with Ms. Medeles, correct?

17 **A.** No.

18 **Q.** None of that money was taken to Ms. Medeles, correct?

19 **A.** No.

20 **Q.** "No" as in Ms. Medeles never received any of that  
21 money?

22 **A.** From Las Gueras, no.

23 **Q.** And Maria Bonita, the same thing, correct?

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** At some point in time you had a fight with Solomon,

1 correct; and he left, correct?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** And at that point in time, you were here by yourself,  
4 correct?

04:07:34

5 **A.** Yes.

6 **Q.** When you were here by yourself, you continued to work,  
7 correct?

8 **A.** Yes.

9 **Q.** But that money you kept for yourself, correct?

04:07:49

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** And you worked at a place called Cocodrilos?

12 **A.** Cocodrilos.

13 **Q.** I'm sorry. Cocodrilos. Okay. You worked there and  
14 kept all that money for yourself?

04:08:08

15 **A.** Yes, because I had no other job.

16 **Q.** I understand. And correct me if I'm wrong; but when  
17 you first came to work at Las Palmas, there was a  
18 gentleman that said you could work there, correct?

19 **A.** Yes.

04:08:35

20 **Q.** So when you testified it was Tencha, you meant to say  
21 that the first time you got there you were allowed to work  
22 there by a skinny male, would that be correct?

23 **A.** Yes. But he said he had to consult with Tencha.

24 **Q.** I understand that, but I just want to be clear about  
25 that.

04:08:56

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. And you also had a fake ID with you, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And that fake ID was given to you by your pimp,  
04:09:07 5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Finally, the -- when you went over to -- when I say  
8 "you", when you and the other girls went over to Las  
9 Palmas at 2:00, you could go there whenever you wanted to,  
04:09:27 10 correct?

11 A. No, because she used to tell us that we had to be  
12 there at 2:00. Otherwise, they wouldn't let us in.

13 Q. Right. An unartful question. I'm sorry. My point  
14 is: You could be there any day you wanted to as long as  
04:09:53 15 you were there right at 2:00?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And every day different girls would be there,  
18 depending on the day, correct?

19 A. They were the same.

04:10:07 20 Q. Every day was the same girls?

21 A. Sometimes new ones would come in.

22 Q. And Ms. Medeles had nothing to do with which girl came  
23 when, correct, as in what day?

24 A. When I went in there the first time they told me  
04:10:38 25 everything had to be referred back to her.

1 Q. My point is: The pimps -- or when somebody like  
2 yourself didn't have a pimp in the end -- would decide  
3 what days to show up? The permission to enter, of course,  
4 was with the establishment, I understand that, correct?

04:10:59

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. Is that a yes? I'm sorry.

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. FAZEL: I pass the witness, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Do you have anything further?

04:11:07

10 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

11 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

12 BY MR. PEREZ:

13 Q. Now, ma'am, you mentioned when I asked you questions  
14 that you serviced, I think you said, 150 men from 2:00 in  
15 the morning to 5:00 in the morning on Saturday night; is  
16 that correct? That's what you said?

04:11:17

17 A. I made a mistake.

18 Q. Explain to the members of the jury when you say you  
19 made a mistake.

04:11:35

20 A. I was very nervous. It was \$50 per person besides  
21 what I got from the men inside.

22 Q. So when you say it's what you got from the men inside,  
23 explain that to the members of the jury, please.

24 A. It was about positions, to do it in different

04:12:21

25 positions I charged.

1 Q. So let me ask you this: So how many men did you  
2 service a typical Saturday night from 2:00 in the morning  
3 to 5:00 in the morning on Saturday night?

4 A. About 20 men.

04:12:40

5 Q. Now, Mr. Ali asked you whether you showed up with a  
6 fake ID at Las Palmas; and you said, "Yes."

7 Now, if you were 18 when you arrived at Las Palmas,  
8 you wouldn't need a fake ID, right?

9 MR. FAZEL: Objection to speculation, Your Honor.

04:12:59

10 THE COURT: As to what?

11 MR. FAZEL: Speculation.

12 THE COURT: Sustained. You may rephrase it.

13 Excuse me one second. Off the record. Just give me one  
14 second. I need to sign some papers. That way I don't get  
15 trapped back there.

04:14:00

16 (Off the record.)

17 THE COURT: Okay. Sorry. That saved me from a  
18 trip back to sign some papers.

19 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Ms. XXXXX, previously we talked about  
20 Government Exhibit Number 31. The Judge accepted it into  
21 evidence. I'm going to show you what is Government  
22 Exhibit 31a, which is unredacted. Okay. Is 31a a copy of  
23 31 without this excised part?

04:15:33

24 A. (Nodding head up and down.)

04:15:56

25 Q. You have got to raise your voice.

1 **A.** (Speaking in Spanish.)

2 **Q.** No. No. My question is this: The Judge has accepted  
3 31 into evidence. It's in evidence. Okay. 31a, this  
4 right here, is a copy of this one without your name being  
5 whited out. Okay. Is this your name?

04:16:14

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** Okay. And then, is this the correct date of birth?

8 **A.** Yes.

9 MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, at this time the United  
10 States would offer into evidence 31a, which is an  
11 unredacted copy of 31, Your Honor.

04:16:26

12 THE COURT: Any problem?

13 MR. FAZEL: I think it's -- no, except it's got  
14 personal information. So I'm going to leave it up to the  
15 Court to decide.

04:16:39

16 MR. PEREZ: It's all right, Your Honor. I have  
17 cleared it through the agents. It's okay.

18 THE COURT: All right. There isn't any  
19 objection?

04:16:47

20 MR. FAZEL: No.

21 THE COURT: Then it's admitted. Okay.

22 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Now, I think previously you testified  
23 or at least you told Mr. Ali that you arrived in Houston  
24 in 2006 and 2007. My understanding is he asked you that's  
25 what you had told the agent.

04:17:07

1 Did you later, in a later time that you interviewed  
2 with the agents, tell them that, in fact, you had arrived  
3 in Houston in 2003, 2004?

4 **A.** I am sorry?

04:17:31

5 **Q.** I understand. I'm trying to make it as simple as I  
6 can. Okay. Mr. Ali just a few minutes ago asked you that  
7 if you had told the agents that you arrived in 2006, 2007  
8 and you agreed with him?

9 **A.** I arrived in 2003.

04:17:55

10 **Q.** I understand that. What I'm asking is, as he said, at  
11 some point you told the agents you had arrived in 2006 and  
12 2007 but then later told them that you had arrived in  
13 2003. The bottom line is: When did you arrive in  
14 Houston? 2003 or 2006 and '07?

04:18:17

15 **A.** The first time, 2003.

16 **Q.** And then when you came back, when did you arrive, if  
17 you know, if you remember?

18 **A.** 2008.

19 **Q.** And then you worked at Las Palmas in 2003?

04:18:36

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** All right.

22 MR. PEREZ: One moment, Your Honor, please.

23 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) You know, Mr. Ali asked you if Tencha  
24 had hit you; and you said no. But then you tried to

04:19:04

25 explain that, and he cut you off.



1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. PEREZ: Okay.

3 THE COURT: I'm going to need to interrupt. I  
4 need to take about a 5-minute break. I have another judge  
04:19:13 5 on the line that I need to talk to. It will be about five  
6 minutes. So sorry for the interruption, but I'll be back  
7 out in five minutes. Okay.

8 (Off the record from 4:19 p.m. to 4:32 p.m.)

9 THE COURT: I didn't mean for you to remain here.  
04:32:49 10 Do you want a break?

11 JURORS: No.

12 THE COURT: We'll keep going. I apologize for  
13 that. But it was another judge in another state that I  
14 had to talk to. So it's a rarity. Be seated, please.  
04:33:05 15 Next time remind me can we take a break. Hopefully, it  
16 won't happen again. Sorry. Go right ahead.

17 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) I think that Mr. Ali asked you a  
18 question, and he asked you whether Tencha had ever hit  
19 you. And then you tried to explain that answer, and he  
04:33:35 20 cut you off. Could you please tell the members of the  
21 jury what you were going to say before being cut off, if  
22 you remember?

23 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

24 MR. FAZEL: Judge, I'm going to object to --

04:33:59 25 THE COURT: Again? Say it again. Narrative?

1 MR. FAZEL: Narrative.

2 THE COURT: Sustained.

04:34:16

3 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Okay. She did something to you  
4 when -- let me start over. He asked you if Tencha had  
5 ever hit you, and you tried to explain your answer. And  
6 let's start off with what happened after he asked you  
7 whether she had hit you or not. Explain your answer.

8 A. When Solomon wanted to have a quarrel or a fight with  
9 a client over there, Tencha told me to leave.

04:34:52

10 Q. So Solomon was your pimp, right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Were there pimps hanging around La FERIA and Las  
13 Palmas, the place owned by Tencha?

04:35:17

14 A. There were two cantinas. At that time I was just  
15 exiting from one cantina that's next to the other.

16 Q. What happened then?

17 A. I went outside --

18 Q. Who was discussing?

04:35:38

19 A. I went outside and saw that they were arguing. And  
20 Tencha, when she came out -- Solomon and a client from  
21 that place.

22 Q. What happened then?

23 A. Tencha arrived. Solomon was about to take me to the  
24 house.

04:36:06

25 "Tell your pimp not to bring you here anymore. I

1 don't want you here anymore. I don't want any problems  
2 with the police."

3 Q. Okay.

04:36:24

4 A. So my pimp looked for another venue, and I only went  
5 to the other place.

6 Q. But she owned both places though, right?

7 MR. FAZEL: Objection to the form of the  
8 question, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Say it again.

04:36:34

10 MR. FAZEL: Objection to the form of the  
11 question, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Did she own both places?

14 A. Yes. I saw her in both places.

04:36:43

15 MR. PEREZ: I have no further questions, Your  
16 Honor.

17 THE COURT: Anything further?

18 **RECROSS-EXAMINATION**

19 BY MR. FAZEL:

04:36:51

20 Q. So just dealing with what the prosecutor asked you  
21 regarding the time, if you arrived in Houston in 2003 and  
22 went straight to Florida, you couldn't have worked in Las  
23 Palmas in 2003, correct?

04:37:22

24 A. Yes. Because I returned here for about three months,  
25 and I did work.

1 Q. You returned to Houston for three months and went back  
2 to Florida?

3 A. No. From Florida I came to Houston.

04:37:38

4 Q. Yeah. You are saying that now; but initially you said  
5 you didn't get back to Houston until 2006, correct?

6 A. No. It's just that I thought you were talking about  
7 Mexico.

8 MR. FAZEL: I pass the witness.

9 THE COURT: Anything further?

04:37:52

10 MR. PEREZ: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. You may step down. You  
12 are excused, and you are free to leave.

13 Call your next witness.

04:38:02

14 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. I'm going to spell  
15 it for the Court.

16 THE COURT: Hang on a second. Let me get --

17 MR. PEREZ: First name XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. Last name  
18 XXXXXXXXXXXX, T, as in Tom, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

19 THE COURT: Thanks. Ellen.

04:38:34

20 (Witness sworn by the case manager through the  
21 interpreter.)

22 THE COURT: Okay. You may sit down. Go right  
23 ahead.

24 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,

1 having been first duly sworn, testified through the  
2 interpreter as follows:

3 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

4 BY MR. PEREZ:

04:39:07

5 **Q.** State your name for the Court and the members of the  
6 jury, please, ma'am.

7 **A.** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

8 **Q.** And are you originally from Mexico, ma'am, born in  
9 Mexico?

04:39:18

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** And did you meet somebody in Mexico who at some time  
12 became your boyfriend?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** How old were you when you met that person?

04:39:33

15 **A.** Where, sir?

16 **Q.** How old were you when you met that person?

17 **A.** 14.

18 **Q.** What was his name?

19 **A.** Ruben Juarez Morales.

04:39:50

20 **Q.** Where did you meet Ruben Juarez Morales?

21 **A.** In Tlaxcala.

22 **Q.** Did he eventually become your boyfriend?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** And eventually did he become your pimp?

04:40:06

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. How long after you met him did he become your pimp?

2 A. About a year.

3 Q. During that one year was he just your boyfriend?

4 A. No. We got together, and I had a normal job. And

04:40:30

5 then, he sent me to work.

6 Q. You had a normal job. What did you do in that normal  
7 job?

8 A. I worked at a textile company.

9 Q. And were you living with Ruben at that time?

04:40:47

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Eventually he talked you into becoming a prostitute;  
12 is that correct?

13 A. No. He deceived me. He took me. I was deceived.

14 Q. Okay. Let's talk about that. How did he deceive you?

04:41:05

15 A. He said we were going to go to Tijuana to work, but he  
16 said it was at a restaurant.

17 MR. PEREZ: Tijuana?

18 THE INTERPRETER: Tijuana.

19 Q. (By Mr. Perez) And did you, in fact, go to Tijuana to  
20 work?

04:41:22

21 A. Yes. But he took me to work at a cantina.

22 Q. How long after you met him did you wind up in Tijuana?

23 A. Sorry?

24 Q. You met him; and then, you wound up in Tijuana, right?

04:41:43

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How long after you met him did you wind up in Tijuana?

2 A. I don't remember the date.

3 Q. When you arrived in Tijuana, did he go with you?

4 A. Yes.

04:42:02

5 Q. And when you arrived in Tijuana, is that when you  
6 engaged in prostitution for him?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How did he convince you to do that, to become a  
9 prostitute?

04:42:24

10 A. I was in love. He convinced me with beautiful words.  
11 He promised me he would build us a house.

12 Q. Okay. How old were you when that happened?

13 A. I was 18.

14 Q. How long did you work in Tijuana as a prostitute for  
15 him?

04:42:54

16 A. About a year and a half.

17 Q. And where in Tijuana did you work as a prostitute?

18 A. At a place called El Fracaso.

19 Q. Was that a hotel or beer joint or what was it?

04:43:17

20 A. There was a cantina and across there was a hotel.

21 Q. From Tijuana, where did you go next?

22 A. I was brought to Houston.

23 Q. Who brought you to Houston?

24 A. His mother did.

04:43:41

25 Q. Explain the circumstances under which his mother

1 brought you to Houston.

2 **A.** His cousin or his uncle was the owner of Las Chicas,  
3 the place where they brought me.

4 **Q.** And Las Chicas is here in Houston?

04:44:06

5 **A.** Yes.

6 **Q.** And describe that Las Chicas to the members of the  
7 jury, please, ma'am.

8 **A.** Okay. Las Chicas is a cantina in --

9 (Interpreter and witness speaking in Spanish.)

04:44:29

10 THE INTERPRETER: McAllen?

11 MR. PEREZ: McCarty.

12 **A.** On McCarty Street. The cantina was inside and the  
13 rooms outside.

04:44:43

14 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) And do you know what year that was  
15 that you started working there at Las Chicas?

16 **A.** No, I don't remember.

17 **Q.** After you -- how long did you work there at Las Chicas  
18 on McCarty?

19 **A.** Approximately one year.

04:45:03

20 **Q.** And did you ever work at Las Palmas?

21 **A.** Sometime later.

22 **Q.** While you were working at Las Chicas you worked at Las  
23 Palmas or after Las Chicas you worked at Las Palmas?

04:45:32

24 **A.** First was Las Chicas and then at Veracruz. That was  
25 the name.



1 Q. And then from Veracruz you worked at Las Palmas?

2 A. No. At Capricho.

3 Q. And then where did you work after the Capricho?

4 A. At Maria Bonita.

04:45:51

5 Q. And then after Maria Bonita where did you work?

6 A. At Las Palmas.

7 Q. Did you work there during the week or during the  
8 weekend?

9 A. Every day.

04:46:05

10 Q. From what time to what time?

11 A. From 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

12 Q. Who hired you there at Las Palmas?

13 A. Juan.

14 Q. And then did Juan have to get permission from somebody  
15 else to hire you there at Las Palmas, if you know?

04:46:34

16 A. Sorry?

17 Q. You said Juan hired you, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did he have to get approval from somebody else before  
20 he hired you, if you know?

04:46:50

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. From whom?

23 A. The owner of the place.

24 Q. Who was the owner of the place?

04:47:01

25 A. Tencha.

1 Q. Is Tencha in the courtroom here today? You can stand  
2 up and look around.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you describe her for the members of the jury,  
5 please?

6 A. Gray hair and she is on that side.

7 MR. PEREZ: Let the record reflect this witness  
8 has identified the defendant, Tencha.

9 THE COURT: The record will so reflect.

10 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Did -- how long did you work at Las  
11 Palmas for Tencha?

12 A. I don't remember exactly.

13 Q. How about can you give us an estimation? A year? Two  
14 years? Three years? Four years? A month? Just some  
15 kind of approximate time.

16 A. About two years, more or less.

17 Q. What rules were set out by Tencha at Las Palmas when  
18 you worked there?

19 A. At the beginning they could leave us there.

20 Q. Who could leave you there?

21 A. My pimp.

22 Q. Were there other pimps there who dropped off girls at  
23 Las Palmas?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Were there other girls who worked at Las Palmas

1 besides you who worked there as prostitutes?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** Did most of the girls who worked there have pimps?

4 **A.** Yes.

04:48:52

5 **Q.** You mentioned that Tencha said or you said that  
6 initially you could be dropped off or something like that?

7 **A.** Yes. At first she said we could be dropped there.

8 But then since she said that the police might arrive  
9 there -- there was a time when the police did come.

04:49:25

10 **Q.** What happened?

11 **A.** That they couldn't come -- they couldn't take us  
12 there, that we had to come by our own car.

13 **Q.** And what would you do with your car when you arrived  
14 at Las Palmas?

04:49:44

15 **A.** I would park it in the back, and the ones who didn't  
16 have one would arrive by taxi.

17 **Q.** If you did not want to work at Las Palmas as a  
18 prostitute, what would your pimp -- what would your pimp  
19 do to you if you didn't?

04:50:09

20 **A.** He would hit me.

21 **Q.** Tell the members of the jury when you say hit you,  
22 what would he -- describe what he would do to you, please.

23 **A.** It's a little hard.

24 **Q.** I understand that; but I think the Court, the Judge

04:50:25

25 and this jury need to know. Okay.

1 **A.** He would hit me until he got tired of it. And I had  
2 to bring a certain amount so that he would be happy. He  
3 would leave marks on my body, but we were not allowed to  
4 have marks on our bodies.

04:51:07

5 **Q.** Why weren't you allowed to have marks on your body?

6 **A.** Because the police could find out that we had marks.

7 **Q.** I know that this time period is very traumatic for  
8 you. Okay. And I do know --

9 **A.** (Speaking Spanish.)

04:51:37

10 MR. FAZEL: Your Honor, I'm sorry. She is  
11 about --

12 THE COURT: Excuse me. Hold it. Yes, sir.

13 MR. FAZEL: She is about to answer a question  
14 that hasn't been posed.

04:51:45

15 THE COURT: Sustained.

16 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) You were going to talk about another  
17 rule. Tell the members of the jury what the rule is,  
18 please.

19 **A.** The other rule was not arriving late because we were  
20 charged.

04:51:59

21 **Q.** Who would charge you?

22 **A.** The guy at the entrance.

23 **Q.** How much was the fine for being late?

24 **A.** \$40.

04:52:14

25 **Q.** How much was -- how much did you charge there for --

1 to service clients there at Las Palmas?

2 **A.** From \$55 to \$65.

3 **Q.** And how much went to Las Palmas?

4 **A.** \$5 to go up, \$15 inside and the rest was for us.

04:52:43

5 **Q.** When you say for you, did it really go to you, ma'am?

6 **A.** No. I would give it to my pimp.

7 **Q.** I know that this has been very traumatic for you; but  
8 if I were to tell you that you worked there from December  
9 of 2008 until April 2012, would that sound about right?

04:53:10

10 **A.** I'm sorry. I didn't hear you.

11 **Q.** I would ask you whether you worked there from December  
12 of --

13 MR. FAZEL: Your Honor, I'm sorry. That's  
14 leading the witness. She has already answered the timing.  
15 He is just giving her information. He is testifying,  
16 basically.

04:53:20

17 THE COURT: All right. Rephrase it. Let's start  
18 again. Rephrase it, please.

19 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

04:53:28

20 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) I know it's been very traumatic for  
21 you. Okay. My question to you is --

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** -- you worked at Las Palmas?

24 **A.** Yes.

04:53:37

25 **Q.** When did you arrive? When did you cross into the

1 United States?

2 **A.** I don't remember the date.

3 **Q.** How old were you when you met -- how old were you when  
4 you crossed into the United States?

04:54:00

5 **A.** I was about 20.

6 **Q.** And you met your pimp when you were how old?

7 **A.** I'm sorry. I don't remember the date well.

8 **Q.** Not the date but how old were you?

9 **A.** Oh, that's my age?

04:54:25

10 **Q.** Yes.

11 **A.** I was 17. I was married. I was forced to marry at  
12 18.

13 **Q.** What year did you meet your pimp?

14 **A.** I'm sorry. I'm nervous. I don't remember.

04:54:51

15 **Q.** I know you are nervous. The jurors and the judge need  
16 to know. Okay. Take your time. Okay?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** About what year did you meet your pimp?

19 **A.** All I remember is that I was 17.

04:55:27

20 **Q.** And you came to this country when you were 20?

21 **A.** (Nodding head up and down.)

22 **Q.** Yes?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** How old are you now?

04:55:36

25 **A.** 33.

1 Q. So you arrived in this country about 13 years ago?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. 13 minus 2015, that would have been about 2002?

4 A. More or less.

04:55:52

5 Q. Nonetheless, you worked there at Las Palmas?

6 A. About two years.

7 MR. MAGLIOLO: May we have a moment, Your Honor?

8 THE COURT: Yeah. Do we have some water for the  
9 witness?

04:56:50

10 (Witness given water.)

11 THE COURT: Are we ready?

12 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor. May I have the  
13 screen, Your Honor?

14 Q. (By Mr. Perez) P-27, do you recognize the person on  
15 P-27?

04:57:47

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Who is that?

18 A. The guy in the parking lot.

19 Q. What was his job in the parking lot?

04:58:01

20 A. He charged to park the cars.

21 Q. Do you know his name?

22 A. No, but his nickname. I don't remember it well.

23 Q. P-28, do you recognize that person in P-28?

24 A. Yes. She is the one who served drinks.

04:58:28

25 Q. Do you know her name?

1 A. Morena. I don't know. Morena is what she was called.

2 Q. Do you know whether she was related to Tencha?

3 A. She said she was her aunt.

4 Q. That Tencha was her aunt?

04:58:47

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. P-29, do you recognize that person?

7 A. I saw him only once.

8 Q. Where did you see him?

9 A. Inside.

04:59:05

10 Q. Do you know what he was doing or what his relationship  
11 was to the location?

12 A. No.

13 Q. P-30, you have already identified her. Is that  
14 Tencha?

04:59:19

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. P-31?

17 A. That's Tencha's brother.

18 Q. Do you know him by name?

19 A. No.

04:59:33

20 Q. What was his job there at Las Palmas?

21 A. He would watch us when we left.

22 Q. What do you mean by that?

23 A. Because when we went out to work he realized that, and  
24 he would charge us for going.

04:59:59

25 Q. When you say you would go out to work, explain that to



1 the members of the jury, please.

2 **A.** Whenever we went to work at a hotel, they would charge  
3 us \$40 to leave.

4 **Q.** Explain that. You would go away from the Las Palmas  
5 to work as a prostitute at a hotel?

05:00:21

6 **A.** Yes. Yes. We would go to work at a hotel, and they  
7 would charge us \$40 for leaving. Or if we wanted to go  
8 home, they would also charge us \$40.

9 **Q.** Would you come back from the hotel or the house?

05:00:52

10 **A.** Sorry?

11 **Q.** You said you would go to either a house or a hotel to  
12 perform a sex act; and then, after that, would you come  
13 back?

14 **A.** Yes. When I went to work outside, yes, I did come  
15 back.

05:01:11

16 **Q.** Is that when you were charged the fine?

17 **A.** They charged me first when I was leaving if I was  
18 going to a hotel. And then when I wanted to go home, they  
19 would charge me, also; but then, I wouldn't come back.

05:01:35

20 **Q.** Okay. So if you would go home before your shift ended  
21 you would get fined; is that correct?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** P-33, do you recognize that person?

24 **A.** Yes. But I only saw him once.

05:01:55

25 **Q.** Where did you see him then?

1 **A.** I saw him inside the cantina.

2 **Q.** Do you know what he was doing inside the cantina?

3 **A.** No.

4 MR. MAGLIOLO: Which cantina?

05:02:12

5 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) That would be at the Las Palmas, is  
6 that right, where you saw him?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Do you recall seeing girls who at least looked like  
9 minors working at Las Palmas?

05:02:26

10 MR. FAZEL: Objection to speculation, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: All right. Rephrase it.

12 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) If you know.

13 THE COURT: If she knows.

14 **A.** Yes.

05:02:35

15 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) How many minors, if you know, that  
16 appeared to be minors to you did you see there at Las  
17 Palmas working as prostitutes?

18 **A.** Three or four.

19 **Q.** Do you remember one who had a fake ID?

05:02:57

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** And do you recall whether Tencha saw her?

22 **A.** Sorry?

23 **Q.** Did Tencha see that person with the fake ID?

24 **A.** I imagine so.

05:03:23

25 **Q.** Do you recall hearing Tencha talking to pimps

1 regarding a girl who had recently been smuggled into the  
2 United States?

3 **A.** Sorry?

4 **Q.** Do you remember Tencha talking to pimps about a girl  
5 who had been recently smuggled into the United States and  
6 was brought into the United States from Mexico?

7 **A.** I don't understand.

8 MR. PEREZ: I'll pass the witness at this time,  
9 Your Honor.

10 MR. MAGLIOLO: Hold on.

11 MR. PEREZ: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

12 MR. MAGLIOLO: Can we have a moment, Your Honor?

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

15 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) When -- how old were you when you left  
16 Las Palmas?

17 **A.** Not long ago.

18 **Q.** How old -- listen to my question. How old were you  
19 when you left Las Palmas?

20 **A.** I left Las Palmas two years ago.

21 **Q.** Okay. And do you recall what month you left Las  
22 Palmas two years ago?

23 **A.** No.

24 **Q.** So we are the year 2015. You left about two years  
25 ago. Are you sure about that?

1 **A.** Yes, because it's the age of my daughter.

2 **Q.** How old is your daughter?

3 **A.** March 21st she turned two.

4 **Q.** So you left two years ago. That would be 2013, and  
05:06:06 5 you worked there for two years. That would have then been  
6 2011; is that correct?

7 **MR. FAZEL:** Judge, he is testifying.

8 **THE COURT:** Overruled.

9 **A.** Yes.

05:06:18 10 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Now, I wasn't clear, okay, as far as I  
11 asked you about who set the rules about the police and how  
12 to avoid the police and things like that. Who would set  
13 the rules, just to be specific about that?

14 **A.** Tencha.

05:06:38 15 **Q.** And she also set the rules about bruises?

16 **A.** Yes.

17 **Q.** You also said that a guy charged there at the  
18 location; is that right?

19 **A.** Yes.

05:06:53 20 **Q.** Now who did that guy work for, the one who collected  
21 the fees?

22 **A.** Tencha.

23 **Q.** Tencha. You also mentioned that you had to take your  
24 own car to Las Palmas?

05:07:14 25 **A.** Sorry?

1 Q. You also mentioned that they didn't want them to --  
2 for you all to be taken to Las Palmas. You had to take a  
3 taxi or drive your own car to Las Palmas. Do you remember  
4 that testimony?

05:07:28

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who set those rules?

7 A. Tencha.

8 Q. The people who worked at Las Palmas and La FERIA, who  
9 did those people work for?

05:07:42

10 A. For Tencha.

11 Q. Tencha was the owner, the manager? She was the woman?

12 A. The owner.

13 Q. Did La Morena also check for bruises?

14 A. Yes.

05:08:05

15 Q. How many times did La Morena check for bruises during  
16 the time that you worked there?

17 A. Twice.

18 Q. Was anybody ever sent home for having bruises?

19 A. Yes.

05:08:24

20 Q. Explain that to the members of the jury, please.

21 A. They would check our bodies so that we would -- to  
22 make sure we didn't have any bruises because the police  
23 could realize that we had bruises.

24 Q. Did you ever show up with bruises?

05:08:51

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Where were the bruises on your body?

2 A. The top part so that they wouldn't be seen.

3 (Sotto voce discussion between counsel.)

4 Q. (By Mr. Perez) In addition to the charge for the room  
05:09:43 5 that Tencha collected, were you also charged for the  
6 condoms?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How much were you charged for the condoms?

9 A. \$5.

05:09:56 10 Q. Let's get into that just briefly. Okay. What was the  
11 total price of going into the room for sex?

12 A. \$20.

13 Q. And \$20 for whom? For what was the \$20?

14 A. For Tencha.

05:10:17 15 Q. And what did that \$20 fee -- what was it used for?

16 A. It was her money.

17 Q. Well, it was \$20 that when you paid -- when the  
18 customer paid the \$20, what did you get in return for the  
19 \$20?

05:10:40 20 A. Sex.

21 Q. I understand that. I know. But would that cover the  
22 use of the condoms?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Would that cover the use of the prostitution room?

05:10:52 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you ever see a box of condoms there at that  
2 location?

3 A. No. Just packages.

05:11:12

4 Q. When you say "packages," let me ask you this: Did you  
5 ever see a package similar to Government 27 at that  
6 location?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is this very similar to the box that you saw there at  
9 Las Palmas?

05:11:27

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what came in this box?

12 MR. MAGLIOLO: Show her inside.

13 A. The condoms. They would call them chocolates.

14 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Who would call them chocolates?

05:11:42

15 A. The people who gave us the condoms.

16 Q. And I think you also said "ella." Is that what you  
17 said? Did you mean Tencha, as well?

18 A. Yes. And if we went overtime, they would charge us  
19 again.

05:12:01

20 Q. Would Tencha call the condoms chocolates? Is that  
21 what you said?

22 A. Yes.

23 MR. MAGLIOLO: Did you get the exhibit number on  
24 the box?

05:12:12

25 MR. PEREZ: Yes.

1 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Were you illegally in the country when  
2 you worked there for Tencha?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were there other people -- the other girls who worked  
05:12:25 5 there as prostitutes were they also illegally in the  
6 country, if you know?

7 MR. FAZEL: Objection, asks for speculation.

8 THE COURT: Excuse me. It's what?

9 MR. FAZEL: Asks for speculation.

05:12:37 10 THE COURT: He said if she knows.

11 Q. (By Mr. Perez) If you know.

12 A. We were all illegal.

13 Q. How about the employees, the people who worked for  
14 Tencha?

05:12:46 15 A. Also.

16 MR. PEREZ: I'll pass the witness, Your Honor.

17 MR. FAZEL: May I proceed, Your Honor?

18 THE COURT: Go on.

19 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

05:12:52 20 BY MR. FAZEL:

21 Q. Good afternoon, ma'am. You and I have never met  
22 before, correct?

23 A. Sorry?

24 Q. You and I have never met before, spoken before today,  
05:13:08 25 correct?



1 **A.** Correct.

2 **Q.** I have a few questions for you.

3 **A.** Yes.

4 **Q.** I want to make sure that I understand what you just  
05:13:14 5 testified about and make sure I'm clear about it. Okay?

6 **A.** Okay.

7 **Q.** Correct me if I'm wrong; but when you met your pimp,  
8 Mr. Morales, you were 18 years old, correct?

9 **A.** Correct.

05:13:28 10 **Q.** And then he forced you through -- I'm not going to go  
11 through that. But he forced you to engage in prostitution  
12 in Mexico, correct?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** Now, Ms. Medeles, as you know as Tencha, never did  
05:13:43 15 that, correct?

16 **A.** Correct.

17 **Q.** You never met Tencha in Mexico, did you?

18 **A.** Correct.

19 **Q.** You didn't know any of her family members in Mexico,  
05:14:02 20 correct?

21 **A.** Correct.

22 **Q.** And how -- and then after -- you mentioned something  
23 that I wanted to make sure I was correct. Did you marry  
24 Mr. Morales? Did I hear that correctly? I might have  
05:14:16 25 been mistaken.

1 A. I was forced to.

2 Q. He forced you to marry him?

3 A. My mother did.

4 Q. Your mom knew about Mr. Morales?

05:14:30

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did she know what he was doing to you?

7 A. Sorry?

8 Q. Did she know what Mr. Morales was doing to you?

9 A. No.

05:14:45

10 Q. But she knew about your relationship with Mr. Morales?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then how old were you when you married him?

13 A. I was 17.

14 Q. You just said you met him when you were 18?

05:15:04

15 A. Yes. I'm sorry.

16 Q. That's okay. You don't have to apologize. So you  
17 were 18 when you met him, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. When did you marry him?

05:15:18

20 A. Sorry?

21 Q. When did you marry him?

22 A. When I was 17. I'm sorry. I'm nervous.

23 Q. That's okay. I get nervous, too. It's okay. It  
24 makes you nervous when you talk to people in front of

05:15:41

25 people. That's quite all right. Let's start it one more

1 time. Okay. Don't be nervous.

2 **A.** Okay.

3 **Q.** You met him when you were 18 years old, correct?

4 **A.** Yes.

05:15:51

5 **Q.** So you had to have married him after you were 18,  
6 correct?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** If you don't know, "I don't know" is a perfectly good  
9 answer. Do you know how old you were when you married

05:16:06

10 him?

11 **A.** 17.

12 **Q.** Okay. Would it be fair to say that you are not quite  
13 clear on dates? Would that be a fair statement?

14 **A.** Yes.

05:16:30

15 **Q.** Okay. Now, there is a difference between assuming  
16 something and knowing something. Do you know the  
17 difference?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** I want -- I don't want you to assume anything. Just  
20 tell me what you know. Fair?

05:16:46

21 **A.** That's all right.

22 **Q.** You know that when you came to the United States it  
23 was Mr. Morales who brought you, correct?

24 **A.** Yes.

05:17:03

25 **Q.** We know it wasn't Tencha, correct?

1 **A.** Correct.

2 **Q.** We know it wasn't Tencha or Ms. Medeles that put you  
3 to work at Las Chicas, correct?

4 **A.** Sorry?

05:17:19

5 **Q.** We know that it wasn't -- I'm just going to call her  
6 Tencha, what you call her, just for ease. We know it  
7 wasn't Tencha who put you to work at Las Chicas, correct?

8 MR. CHAPUSEAUX: Las Chicas.

9 MR. FAZEL: Las Chicas. I'm sorry. You are

05:17:36

10 correct. Las Chicas.

11 **A.** Correct.

12 **Q.** (By Mr. Fazel) We know it wasn't Tencha that put you  
13 to work at Veracruz, correct?

14 **A.** Correct.

05:17:43

15 **Q.** We know it wasn't Tencha that put you to work at  
16 Capricho? Am I saying that right?

17 **A.** Capricho.

18 **Q.** Capricho. Sorry. It wasn't Tencha, was it?

19 **A.** No.

05:18:01

20 **Q.** And we know the first time you walked into Las Palmas  
21 it was Juan who hired you, correct?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Tencha wasn't there, correct?

24 **A.** Correct.

05:18:17

25 **Q.** So you assume he asked Tencha? You don't know,

1 correct?

2 **A.** No.

3 **Q.** That's not correct?

4 **A.** No.

05:18:27

5 **Q.** You know Juan called Tencha?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** He did it in front of you?

8 **A.** No. But she always came, and he always consulted with  
9 her on everything.

05:18:43

10 **Q.** Okay. See, that's the difference between assuming and  
11 knowing. Were you standing there when he consulted with  
12 her with you?

13 **A.** Twice.

14 **Q.** I'm talking about with you, when you were hired. Were  
15 you standing there when he consulted with her?

05:18:59

16 **A.** Sorry?

17 **Q.** Were you standing right by Juan when Juan consulted  
18 with Tencha about hiring you?

19 **A.** No.

05:19:17

20 **Q.** Right. Later, perhaps, you heard that with other  
21 girls and assumed he did that with you, correct?

22 **A.** Correct.

23 **Q.** Okay. Do me a favor. Don't assume, please.

24 **A.** No, I don't. (Speaking Spanish.)

05:19:42

25 **Q.** Okay. I understand.

1 **A.** It's the difference between imagination and what --

2 **Q.** It is. Okay. Now, let me ask you something else that  
3 kind of perked my curiosity. You said that you drove to  
4 Las Palmas, correct?

05:20:10

5 **A.** Yes.

6 **Q.** You had a car?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** You had a cell phone?

9 **A.** Yes.

05:20:19

10 **Q.** And you lived with yourself and your husband?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** Now, the prosecutor, Mr. Perez, asked you a question.  
13 I want to clear it up to make sure I understand you  
14 correctly. Mr. Morales, your husband, would punish you or  
15 beat you or whatever awful thing he did to you if you  
16 didn't work not just at Las Palmas but any of the  
17 locations he wanted you to work, right?

05:20:50

18 **A.** Correct.

19 **Q.** When we talked about the marks and the bruises, is it  
20 correct and fair to say that the location Las Palmas  
21 didn't want to get folks arrested, correct?

05:21:18

22 **A.** Sorry.

23 **Q.** The fear was for the HPD coming to arrest people. The  
24 HPD being the Houston Police Department, correct?

05:21:41

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. They didn't want vice coming in and saying there is  
2 prostitution here and arresting everybody, correct?

3 MR. PEREZ: Objection, calls for speculation on  
4 the part of this witness, Your Honor.

05:21:53

5 THE COURT: Sustained.

6 Q. (By Mr. Fazel) It's your understanding about the  
7 policy that you just described to the jury that they did  
8 not want any bruises, correct?

9 A. Correct. They didn't want any marks.

05:22:08

10 Q. Right. The reason they didn't want any marks, if you  
11 know, but the reason they didn't want any marks is because  
12 they didn't want the Houston Police Department coming in  
13 and arresting people for prostitution, correct?

14 A. Correct.

05:22:23

15 Q. The money that the prosecutor talked to you about,  
16 when you entered the room with the gentleman that was  
17 going to have sex with you, you had the option of charging  
18 whatever you wanted, correct?

19 A. No.

05:22:45

20 Q. No?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You couldn't charge more for different positions?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So it would be fair to say that each girl had the

05:22:56

25 option of charging what they wished once they are in the

1 room negotiating with the gentleman?

2 **A.** Yes.

3 **Q.** And Las Palmas would receive approximately \$20?

4 **A.** Sorry. I didn't understand the question.

05:23:22

5 **Q.** Of the moneys obtained from the gentleman, Las Palmas  
6 would receive approximately \$20, correct?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Do you remember talking about leaving the location and  
9 having to pay a fee?

05:23:49

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** That occurred when you and another girl would  
12 negotiate with the gentleman at the location; and then,  
13 you two would agree to leave to go to a hotel, correct?

14 **A.** Yes.

05:24:08

15 **Q.** Under that circumstance you and the gentleman have  
16 negotiated something, correct?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** And you are just paying an exit fee?

19 **A.** Yes.

05:24:21

20 **Q.** Nobody is forcing you to make that negotiation with  
21 the gentleman other than your pimp, correct?

22 **A.** I did not understand the question.

23 **Q.** Nobody is forcing you to negotiate to go to a hotel  
24 room other than the pimp wanting you to make more money,

05:24:41

25 correct?



1 **A.** Yes.

2 MR. FAZEL: I pass the witness. Thank you,  
3 ma'am.

4 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

05:24:59

5 BY MR. PEREZ:

6 **Q.** You mentioned that La Morena inspected the bodies of  
7 the girls to see if they had bruises. Do you remember  
8 that?

9 **A.** Yes.

05:25:11

10 **Q.** At one point did La Morena inspect the bodies of  
11 approximately 35 girls there at that location?

12 **A.** Yes.

13 **Q.** Do you recall that at one point La Morena sent a girl  
14 home for having bruises after one of the inspections?

05:25:36

15 Then the pimp beat her up because she was sent home  
16 because of the bruises that he had inflicted on her?

17 MR. FAZEL: Compound. Leading.

18 THE COURT: Sustained.

19 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Do you recall?

05:25:48

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** Do you recall that La Morena sent one of the girls  
22 home for bruises?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** The bruises that the pimp had inflicted on her?

05:26:02

25 MR. FAZEL: Objection to speculation and hearsay.

1 Q. (By Mr. Perez) If you know.

2 THE COURT: Yes. Please add that from now on.

3 Okay?

4 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

05:26:10

5 Q. (By Mr. Perez) If you know.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Then she goes home; and the pimp beats her up because  
8 she had been sent home because of the bruises that he had  
9 inflicted on her, if you know?

05:26:20

10 MR. FAZEL: It's leading. It's leading, Judge.  
11 Objection.

12 THE COURT: Overruled.

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. MAGLIOLO: Just a moment if we could, Your  
15 Honor.

05:27:04

16 THE COURT: All right. Let's go. Let's keep it  
17 moving or pass the witness. It's whatever you want to do.

18 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

19 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Now, you mentioned on more than one  
20 occasion Juan got approval for hiring a prostitute; is  
21 that correct?

05:27:16

22 A. Sorry?

23 Q. Okay. I think the defense attorney asked you whether  
24 you assumed that Juan would get approval from Tencha

05:27:33

25 before a prostitute got hired?

1 **A.** Yes, he said that.

2 **Q.** Well, I mean, did this happen on one occasion? Did  
3 Juan hire -- get permission from Tencha on several  
4 occasions before hiring a prostitute to work there at that  
05:27:52 5 location, if you know?

6 **A.** I didn't understand the question.

7 **Q.** Would Juan get approval from Tencha before hiring a  
8 prostitute at Las Palmas?

9 MR. FAZEL: Objection to leading.

05:28:04 10 THE COURT: We have been over it already. What  
11 else do you have?

12 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Now, you mentioned that when -- or the  
13 defense attorney asked you about HPD showing up and  
14 checking for bruises, right?

05:28:20 15 **A.** Yes.

16 **Q.** And he said for checking for prostitution, that HPD  
17 would show up to check for bruises and check for  
18 prostitution?

19 MR. FAZEL: That's a misstatement of what I said.  
05:28:33 20 I object to that.

21 THE COURT: Sustained

22 MR. MAGLIOLO: May I have a second, Your Honor?

23 THE COURT: No, sir. No. You're not taking  
24 anymore time. You need --

05:28:40 25 MR. MAGLIOLO: Your Honor, this is very

1 important.

2 THE COURT: No. Have a seat. Yes, sir.

3 MR. PEREZ: Okay. Let me ask one last question.

4 This is my last question.

05:28:45

5 THE COURT: Yes, please.

6 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) When HPD showed up at Las Palmas,  
7 okay, do you know whether they were showing up for -- to  
8 investigate for forced prostitution or voluntary  
9 prostitution, if you know?

05:29:00

10 MR. FAZEL: Asks for speculation and a legal  
11 conclusion.

12 THE COURT: Sustained. Keep going. I'll let you  
13 go in that area, but I'm going question by question. Now  
14 go on.

05:29:09

15 MR. PEREZ: Thank you.

16 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Again, when you said that HPD showed  
17 up -- that Tencha did not want HPD to show up to look into  
18 prostitution?

19 THE COURT: Is that correct?

05:29:20

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Next.

22 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) Do you know if HPD showed up to  
23 investigate for forced prostitution or voluntary  
24 prostitution?

05:29:31

25 **A.** For prostitution.

1 MR. PEREZ: I have no further questions.

2 THE COURT: Anything further?

3 MR. FAZEL: One last question.

4 **RECROSS-EXAMINATION**

05:29:35

5 BY MR. FAZEL:

6 Q. At some point in time, if I'm not mistaken, correct me  
7 if I'm wrong, you left your husband, correct?

8 A. Yes.

05:29:49

9 Q. And after that you continued to work at Las Palmas,  
10 correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And after that you did so voluntarily, correct?

13 A. No. I left.

05:30:00

14 Q. You didn't work there for a period of time after your  
15 husband left?

16 A. He would leave me alone there to work. They watched  
17 me so that I would work. (Speaking Spanish.)

18 THE COURT: Question, please.

19 MR. FAZEL: I don't have any. Thank you, ma'am.

05:30:26

20 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. You may step down.

21 Do you want one more?

22 MR. PEREZ: No. I don't have a question, Your  
23 Honor; but she did say at the end he would leave.

05:30:35

24 THE INTERPRETER: Yes. He left me, but they  
25 watched me.

1 MR. PEREZ: She did answer that, Your Honor. I  
2 have no further questions.

3 THE COURT: Thank you. You may step down. You  
4 are excused. You are free to leave.

05:30:43

5 I am going to leave it to the jury. I was out for  
6 that eight minutes or ten minutes. It's now 5:31. Do you  
7 want to take a short, 9-minute break; or do you want to  
8 keep going right to 6:05? You call it. I apologize. Do  
9 you want to take a little break or keep it going?

05:30:59

10 JURORS: Let's go. Keep it going.

11 THE COURT: Keep it going. All right.

12 Call your next witness.

13 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Your Honor.

05:31:18

14 THE COURT: All right. How do you spell the  
15 name, please?

16 MR. PEREZ: I am going to get it right now, Your  
17 Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXX is XXXXX --

05:31:20

20 THE COURT: XXXXX --

21 MR. PEREZ: -- XXXXX.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. PEREZ: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

05:31:39

24 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to give her the  
25 oath, if you would do it simultaneously. Raise your right

1 hand, please.

2 (Witness sworn by the Court through the interpreter.)

3 THE COURT: Have a seat, please. Okay. We're  
4 ready?

05:32:39

5 THE INTERPRETER: Ready, sir.

6 THE COURT: All right. Let's go, Counsel.

7 **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,**

8 having been first duly sworn, testified through the  
9 interpreter as follows:

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

11 BY MR. PEREZ:

12 **Q.** State your name for the Court and the members of the  
13 jury, please, ma'am.

14 **A.** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

05:32:56

15 **Q.** And where are you from, ma'am?

16 **A.** Honduras.

17 **Q.** When did you come to the United States?

18 **A.** In 2010.

19 **Q.** Did you come straight to the United States from

05:33:15

20 Honduras, or did you stop somewhere else before coming to  
21 the United States?

22 **A.** I stopped at some places.

23 **Q.** And you are from Honduras, but did you go to Mexico  
24 after you were in Honduras?

05:33:36

25 **A.** Yes.

1 Q. Where did you go?

2 A. To Hidalgo.

3 Q. And how old were you when you went to Hidalgo?

4 A. 18 years.

05:33:56 5 Q. And how -- why did you go to Hidalgo from Honduras  
6 when you were 18?

7 A. Because the ex-wife of my brother brought me.

8 Q. And why did he bring you to Hidalgo?

05:34:38 9 A. We were at first in Guatemala. And then, they brought  
10 me because they had a problem in Guatemala.

11 Q. So you went from Honduras to Guatemala to Puebla?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What kind of problem did you have in Guatemala?

05:35:12 14 A. When I was in Honduras my sister-in-law made a call to  
15 me so that I could go supposedly to work in Mexico. When  
16 I got to Guatemala, a man picked me up.

17 Q. Did you know this man?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And how is it that he picked you up?

05:35:36 20 A. Because Carolina told me he was going to pick me up.

21 Q. And who is Carolina?

22 A. My brother's ex-wife.

23 Q. What happened in Guatemala?

05:35:59 24 A. When the man picked me up, he took me to a house.  
25 When I got to that house, Carolina was there.



1 Q. In Guatemala?

2 A. Yes. I said to Carolina, "Why did you tell me that --  
3 why didn't you tell me you were in Guatemala? You had  
4 told me you were in Mexico."

05:36:28

5 And she told me, "Oh, don't worry about it. We're  
6 going to go later on to Guatemala; but first, we are going  
7 to work here."

8 Q. I thought you were already in Guatemala?

9 A. Pardon?

05:36:42

10 Q. Weren't you in Guatemala when that occurred?

11 THE COURT: I think you said you would later go  
12 to Guatemala. Did you mean you were later to go to Mexico  
13 after Guatemala?

14 THE WITNESS: Si'.

05:36:56

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 Q. (By Mr. Perez) So you are in Guatemala when you  
17 encountered Carolina?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What happens in Guatemala when you encounter Carolina?

05:37:10

20 A. So we went to work; and the man where we were at, he  
21 had a bar. And so, they put me to work there. But I was  
22 a waitress there.

23 Q. How long did you work there?

24 A. I don't remember. About six months or less, sir.

05:37:42

25 Q. Okay. And you worked there as a waitress?

1 **A.** Yes. The man would haul people to the United States.  
2 So I asked him if he could bring me. He said, yes, pay  
3 him \$2,000. So I called my country to my aunt.

4 **Q.** That was in Honduras, right?

05:38:18

5 **A.** Yes. So my aunt sent him -- the man the money. But  
6 that was -- while that was going on, Carolina's sister  
7 went to Mexico.

8 **Q.** What happened then?

05:38:53

9 **A.** About 15 days later, I told the man, hey, you are not  
10 taking me to the United States. Where is my money?

11 **Q.** What happened then?

12 **A.** The man got angry and struck me in my chest. I took  
13 off running and left the house.

14 **Q.** Where did you go?

05:39:16

15 **A.** I went to a hotel or motel. So I called Carolina; and  
16 she said, "Okay. You know what, we're going to go to  
17 Mexico." Carolina's sister was over there.

18 **Q.** So what happened next?

05:39:51

19 **A.** We left. It was raining very hard at that time. We  
20 crossed the river into the border of Hidalgo. I don't  
21 remember too well because I was quite sick on that day.

22 **Q.** What were you sick of?

23 **A.** I had a fever. We took a taxi, and we went by a  
24 checkpoint.

05:40:18

25 **Q.** You are in Mexico at this time?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What happened next?

3 A. We got to the house. I don't remember anything about  
4 that night because I was too sick. So the next day they  
05:40:41 5 took me to the doctor. The doctor said I was sick of my  
6 kidneys; and so, he gave me a medication.

7 Q. What happened next?

8 A. And so then when we got to the house, we came in on  
9 the side; and it looked, like, very tranquil.

05:41:16 10 Q. Who were you with at this time?

11 A. With Carolina and her sister and the owner of the  
12 house or place. When I felt well, they took me some  
13 clothes.

14 Q. Who brought you clothes?

05:41:42 15 A. I don't remember if it was Carolina or the sister. It  
16 was one of them. And so, then I put it on. I didn't go  
17 out where I had the first time. I came out through  
18 another door. So when I got out -- came out through the  
19 other door, I saw a lot of girls who were almost naked.

05:42:21 20 Q. What went through your mind at that time?

21 A. I felt badly.

22 Q. What happened next?

23 A. So then they told me I had to work, that I had to pay  
24 with my body for where I was staying at. I don't remember  
05:43:00 25 how long I stayed.

1 Q. How long you stayed where, ma'am?

2 A. Pardon?

3 Q. You say you don't remember how long you stayed. How  
4 long did you stay where?

05:43:15

5 A. Where the woman was at working because one night Joel  
6 Sanchez arrived. I was outside, and they came in.

7 Q. Who is "they"?

8 A. Joel Sanchez, the brothers and his cousins.

9 Q. Who is Joel Sanchez?

05:43:43

10 A. My pimp.

11 Q. When had you met Joel Sanchez?

12 THE COURT: Excuse me just a second. Where is  
13 this taking place?

14 MR. PEREZ: In Mexico.

05:43:53

15 THE COURT: It's in Mexico. Okay. Go on.

16 Q. (By Mr. Perez) Who is your padrote?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Where had you met Joel Sanchez?

19 A. In Tapachula Hidalgo at the bar.

05:44:14

20 Q. Okay. How long had he been your pimp?

21 A. (Speaking Spanish.)

22 Q. You said that Joel arrived along with some other  
23 people, and he was your pimp?

24 A. No, at that time he wasn't.

05:44:34

25 Q. How long had you known Joel up to that point?

1 A. That was the first night that I had met him.

2 Q. He shows up with some other people, you said?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. What happens when he shows up with these other  
05:44:46 5 people?

6 A. He went in. I stayed outside. And then, he went back  
7 out.

8 Q. He went in where?

9 A. To the bar.

05:45:01 10 Q. Were you at the bar at that time?

11 A. Yes. So he came out; and he said, "Come here. I'm  
12 going to invite you to a beer."

13 So then I went in, and Carolina was there and Joel and  
14 the brothers and the cousins. We were there a long time  
05:45:37 15 drinking. I don't remember. Joel asked us to go in the  
16 room, but I don't remember that anything happened.

17 And he told me that the next day he was inviting me  
18 out to coffee. He gave me his telephone number. The next  
19 day I called him and -- but before I asked the lady for  
05:46:20 20 permission before I went to meet him; but the lady said,  
21 no, she didn't want to give me permission. She said it  
22 was because he was a padrote. But I didn't know what the  
23 word "padrote" meant.

24 Q. What happened next?

05:46:44 25 A. I said to Carolina, let's go and ask the lady. Let's

1 invent something to tell her so that she will let us  
2 leave, go out.

3 So then we went and we called him and we made an  
4 appointment and met him in the park.

05:47:16

5 **Q.** Who met him in the park?

6 **A.** Joel with me and Carolina with Joel's brother, Claudio  
7 Sanchez.

8 **Q.** You met him at the park. What happened there?

05:47:49

9 **A.** Afterwards, they asked us out to eat. They invited us  
10 to go out to the beach. They went and bought us  
11 beachwear. And then, they asked us to a disco. And we  
12 said we had to return; but they said, no, that was no way  
13 to live. Let's just enjoy it.

14 **Q.** What happened next?

05:48:19

15 **A.** When I finally realized it, I was no longer in  
16 Tapachula. I was already in Hidalgo.

17 And so I asked him, "What are we doing, and how come  
18 we are in Tapachula?"

05:48:47

19 And they said, "Oh, it's that you all got drunk; and  
20 we brought you all over here."

21 **Q.** When you say -- were you asleep or got knocked out or  
22 what?

23 **A.** I don't know.

24 **Q.** All right. You woke up in Tapachula?

05:49:03

25 **A.** In Hidalgo.

1 Q. You woke up in Hidalgo?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What happened there when you woke up?

4 A. "What are you going back for? You can't go back

05:49:22

5 because you would have to go through the checkpoint."

6 Q. You are from Honduras. So you shouldn't be in Mexico;  
7 is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What happened then?

05:49:35

10 A. Well, we were there for about 15 days. And so, they  
11 said, "Let's stay together."

12 And I said, "Okay. Let's go over to the woman's house  
13 so I can pick up my things."

14 They passed us on over to Hidalgo, and in Hidalgo we

05:50:08

15 were there with Joel's aunt. We went to pick up our  
16 things. And when we went to pick them up, the lady didn't  
17 want us to leave, the owner of the bar.

18 Q. What happened then?

19 A. We had to jump over the fence in order to leave.

05:50:40

20 Because as far as I was concerned, I was no longer going  
21 to continue suffering like this.

22 Q. Suffering like what now?

23 A. When I was prostituting myself.

24 Q. When had you started prostituting yourself?

05:51:01

25 A. Since I got to Hidalgo. I don't remember. But since

1 I got to Hidalgo.

2 **Q.** Okay. Who was your pimp when you started prostituting  
3 yourself?

4 **A.** It was a woman.

05:51:17

5 **Q.** What happens then?

6 **A.** We were at Joel's aunt's. I don't remember if it was  
7 two weeks or three weeks. I don't remember. And so they  
8 said, "You know what, we'll pay so that you'll be taken to  
9 Puebla."

05:51:50

10 When the bus got there, they put us on a bus. We were  
11 traveling in with the bananas covered with tarps.

12 **Q.** Who was traveling with you at that time?

13 **A.** Carolina and there were more persons but I didn't know  
14 them.

05:52:23

15 **Q.** What happened next?

16 **A.** We got to Puebla, and Joel's cousin received us  
17 because Joel was traveling in his car behind us.

18 **Q.** Was Joel your pimp at that time?

19 **A.** Well, he was my husband.

05:52:52

20 **Q.** But he wasn't pimping you at that time, is that  
21 correct, or was he?

22 **A.** No. At that time, no.

23 **Q.** What happened after that?

24 **A.** When we were in Puebla, about three months went by. I  
25 don't remember if it was three months, but it was then

05:53:25



1 that he told me that I had to go to work.

2 **Q.** When you were in Puebla for those three months were  
3 you working as a prostitute up until that point?

4 **A.** No. For those three months I wasn't working.

05:53:45

5 **Q.** Who were you living with during those three months?

6 **A.** With Joel and with a cousin and with the cousin's --  
7 with the wife.

8 **Q.** I interrupted you. What did Joel tell you after three  
9 months?

05:54:12

10 **A.** He told me work so that you can help your father. And  
11 I had left a son in Honduras. And he said so that you can  
12 help your son.

13 And I said, "No. I'm not going to work."

14 **Q.** Work as what?

05:54:33

15 **A.** In prostitution.

16 **Q.** So what happened then after you told him you did not  
17 want to work as a prostitute?

18 **A.** He told me that I had to work, that I would be helping  
19 my son, that he was going to set up the house for my

05:55:09

20 father. And the passage had to be paid, that he had paid  
21 10,000 pesos for me to come from Tapachula to Puebla.

22 **Q.** What happened then?

23 **A.** Well, he convinced me; and he put me to work.

24 **Q.** Put you to work where?

05:55:47

25 **A.** I worked in several places.

1 Q. Describe those places, please.

2 A. I worked in Acapulco, Iguala, at DF.

3 THE COURT: Now, what are the years? According  
4 to my notes, she got to the U.S. in 2010. Are we up to  
5 2010 yet?

05:56:20

6 MR. PEREZ: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Well, let's get there, please.

8 MR. PEREZ: Okay, Your Honor.

9 Q. (By Mr. Perez) What year was this at the time that  
10 you were working there as a prostitute?

05:56:27

11 A. Around 2006, more or less.

12 Q. Okay. When did you arrive in the U.S.?

13 A. In 2010.

14 Q. What did you do between that time of 2006 to 2010?

05:56:56

15 A. Working for Joel.

16 Q. Just to make it brief, you worked as a prostitute in  
17 what locations from 2006 to 2010?

18 A. I worked more in Acapulco.

19 Q. At some point you come to the U.S.?

05:57:22

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. 2010. Whose idea was it for you to come to the U.S.  
22 in 2010?

23 A. Before 2010? In 2008 Joel told us let us go to the  
24 United States. When we came over, we were caught by

05:57:58

25 McAllen in the trailer. Joel was deported, and they held

1 me for a month.

2 **Q.** Where? In the United States?

3 **A.** Si'.

4 THE COURT: Held you at the border; is that  
05:58:12 5 correct?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 THE COURT: When did you come back in again?

8 THE WITNESS: In 2010.

9 THE COURT: Okay. All right. How did you get  
05:58:22 10 back in that time?

11 THE WITNESS: Illegally.

12 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead. Let's get  
13 moving on it, please.

14 MR. PEREZ: Yes, Your Honor.

05:58:33 15 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) All right. You get here in 2010.  
16 Joel gets deported.

17 THE COURT: All right. We already said that.  
18 Deported and she came back in.

19 **Q.** (By Mr. Perez) How did you get back in in 2010? How  
05:58:44 20 long were you in Mexico before you came back?

21 **A.** It was about two years.

22 **Q.** In Mexico before you came back the second time?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** So you came back the second time in what year?

05:59:00 25 THE COURT: 2010, correct?

1 THE WITNESS: 2010.

2 Q. (By Mr. Perez) After you got here in 2010, what  
3 happened next?

4 A. Joel told me that I had to come with his brothers.

05:59:21

5 During that time I was pregnant. He took me so that I  
6 could get some shots to get rid of my baby. It was about  
7 two days; and he said, "Okay. You know what, you have to  
8 go."

9 I came with Claudio Sanchez and Mia Sanchez and other  
10 girls. His brother, Raymundo, picked us up here.

05:59:55

11 Q. Here in Houston?

12 A. Here in Houston.

13 Q. What year was that, ma'am?

14 A. In 2010. We had been here, like, about two days; and  
15 they sent us to work.

06:00:18

16 Q. Now, at some point you mentioned you were pregnant.  
17 What happened at that time?

18 A. Well, during those days I was pregnant. I was still  
19 pregnant.

06:00:36

20 Q. You arrive in the United States pregnant?

21 A. Yes. The baby didn't come out.

22 Q. What happened then?

23 A. Claudio told me I had to go to a place called El  
24 Diamante.

06:00:55

25 Q. To be clear, you are pregnant at that time; is that

1 right?

2 **A.** Yes, I was still pregnant.

3 **Q.** How far along were you at that time?

4 **A.** About two months. I don't remember.

06:01:10

5 **Q.** Continue, please.

6 **A.** We were there at the Diamante two weeks or more.

7 Claudio said since there was no money there he was going  
8 to move us.

9 **Q.** Claudia or Claudio?

06:01:33

10 **A.** Claudio. Claudio.

11 **Q.** So what happened then?

12 **A.** He told me to go to Las Palmas, to ask for Juan, and  
13 that XXXXXXXXXX or XXXXXX, I don't remember that girl's  
14 name, that we were coming there by her reference. We got  
15 there and we told Juan that we were there on XXXXXXXXXX  
16 recommendation and that we wanted to work.

06:02:11

17 THE COURT: All right. At that point, it's now  
18 almost 6:05. I would like to visit with the attorneys for  
19 a moment once we adjourn for the day. We will see you  
20 back tomorrow ready to resume at 10:00 a.m. Thank you  
21 and good afternoon.

06:02:30

22 THE MARSHAL: All rise for the jury.

23 (Jury exited courtroom at 6:02 p.m.)

24 THE COURT: You can step down. I'll see you  
25 tomorrow.

06:02:52

1 All right. On the record, please. According to my  
2 clock, it took almost 30 minutes to get across the border  
3 the second time. You have got to speed it up. If not,  
4 you are going to have a clock put on you. Okay. You have  
06:03:17 5 got to speed it up. You can get it done. I understand  
6 that opposing counsel may have some questions. I would  
7 much prefer a few questions from him rather than taking 30  
8 minutes because he is not going to get 30 minutes. Okay.  
9 I just want that said. All right. You have got to speed  
06:03:34 10 it up. All right. See you tomorrow.

11 (Proceedings concluded at 6:03 p.m. and continued in  
12 Volume 4.)

13 *Date: September 3, 2015*

14 ***COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE***

15 *I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct*  
16 *copy of the transcript originally filed with the clerk of*  
17 *court on September 3, 2016, incorporating redactions of*  
18 *personal identifiers requested by Court Order, in*  
19 *accordance with Judicial Conference Policy. Redacted*  
20 *characters appear as a black rectangle in the transcript.*

21  
22           /s/ Laura Wells          

23 *Laura Wells, CRR, RMR*  
24  
25